The New-York Times.

VOL. XIII—NO. 3872. NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1864. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE

THE AFRICA AT HALIFAX.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR IN THE DUCHIES.

Schleswig Evacuated by the Danes.

THE GERMANS IN PURSUIT

FURTHER OF THE BATTLE AT MISUNDE

Debate on the Queen's Speech in the British Parliament.

An Appeal in the Case of the Alexandra.

France to be Neutral in the Dano-German War.

Predictions of the Alabama's Recent Ravages.

HALIFAX, Saturday, Feb. 20.

The steamship *Africa* arrived here at 1 o'clock this morning, and sailed again at 6 o'clock for Boston, where she will be due on Sunday evening. Weather mostly foul, a light south wind. She brings Liverpool dates of the 6th and Queenstown the 7th.

A Hamburg dispatch of the morning of the 6th inst. says:

"There is no news from the theatre of war. It is suggested that the Prussians will prevent the transmission of news fighting is supposed to be going on, as movements of troops are constantly being wrought into Rendsburg."

A Hamburg dispatch of the afternoon of the 6th inst. reports the town of Schleswig evacuated by the Danes and occupied by the allies. This is said to be authentic. Nothing is known as to the capture of Rendsburg.

The appeal in the case of the *Alexandra* was heard on the 5th instant, and the court was to give judgment on the 6th.

The majority of the British journals have a pacific feeling.

The steamship *Etonia*, from New-York, arrived at Queenstown on the 6th instant, and Liverpool on the 7th.

The *Africa* has 34 passengers, and £3,500 in specie for Boston.

She passed the steamship *Etna* on the 9th instant, in lat. 50°, lon. 33°, and the *Kedar* on the 12th, in lat. 49°, lon. 18°; both bound to Liverpool.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the British House of Commons, Mr. LAYARD read dispatches from Austria and Prussia, stating whatever arrangements might be made, relative to Schleswig and Holstein, the Great Powers would be consulted.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. DISRAELI commended that the Queen's Speech should have made formal reference to American affairs, and complained of its silence on this and other important subjects.

Lord PALMERSTON replied that the Government would have requested what has often been said before, and he could see no necessity for that.

Earl DERBY, in the House of Lords, reprobated the idea of British responsibility for the escape of the *Alabama*. He trusted that the Ministers had given such an answer to the claim of the Federal Government as would put an end to such monstrous demands in future.

The debate on the Danish question generally interested more confidence in commercial circles in England, but it was felt that it by no means defined what the ultimate shape the policy of England would take.

In the House of Commons on the 5th instant, Mr. FITZMAURICE called attention to the distress in Ireland, and the consequent contraction of fighting men in America.

The parliamentary papers relative to Japan estimate the destruction of property at Kagoshima at 1,000,000 sterling and 1,500 killed.

The Bullion in the Bank of England had increased £200,000.

THE WAR IN SCHLESWIG.

In the attack on Missunde the Prussian forces numbered 9,000, and that of the Danes about 2,000.

Two stormings were attempted by the Prussians, but they were repulsed, the Danes maintaining a heavy fire against the storming party.

According to one account, one Prussian regiment was totally destroyed by the fire of the Danes.

A semi-official Vienna paper expresses the hope that the explanation just sent by Austria and Prussia to England will avoid all further complications.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, says:

At a ball on the 3d instant, the Emperor NAPOLEON said to a group of Marshals and Generals: "Gentlemen, they have begun the exchange of cannon shots in the North. Let them go on. It is no affair of ours. Our policy should be non-intervention."

These words he addressed seemed to agree with him.

Commercial Intelligence.

COTTON.—Sales of the week 31,000 bales. Market irregular and partially 1/4d. lower, closing firmer. The sales on Friday were 4,000 bales, of Thursday's sales. Middling Orleans at 27¾d.; Middling Uplands, 26½d.

BREADSTUFFS dull. Flour steady. Wheat positively 2@3d. lower since Tuesday. Corn flat and declining.

American Securities inactive; United States Five-twenties, 59@62; Massachusetts Fives, 83; Erie shares, 40@42; New-York Central, 70; Illinois Central, 88@89 discount.

Cotton on Saturday was dreary, and holders declined to accept the offers. The sales on that day were 4,000 bales.

BREADSTUFFS dull and unchanged, except Wheat, which was firmer.

PROVISIONS quiet and steady.

CHEESE closed at 60¾@60¾, and after closing hours at 60¾@61.

PROVISIONS.—Pork advanced 1s. for Western. Beef steady. Bacon quiet and tending downward. Butter quiet and steady. Lard quiet and unchanged. Tallow declined 6d. Sugar quiet, closing firmer. Coffee quiet and steady.

PETROLEUM.—Petroleum easier: Refined is. 20d.@1s. 20½d.; Crude £13@£17 5s.

On the Paris Bourse the Rentes closed at 66f. 40c.

Twelve guineas premium were being paid on the ship *Edinburgh*, arrived from China for London.

EXTRACTS FROM OUR FOREIGN FILES.

DEPREDATIONS OF THE ALABAMA.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH SHIP MARTABAN.

From the Straits Times, Dec. 26.

Capt FIKE, of the British ship *Martaban*, burnt by the *Alabama*, in compliance with our request, has sent up the following statement of the circumstances attending the destruction of his vessel. The statement speaks for itself; and, as we do not wish to be burned into an expression of opinion on a subject which is sure to arrest the attention of every court in Europe, the mere delay over our comments till we are well informed as to the legal bearings of the question:

"I left Amherst on the 25th inst., for Singapore, having on board a cargo consisting of 12,264 bags of rice. On the 29th inst., at 6 P. M., Pulo Pisang and the Carimons bearing S. S. E. from the deck, made a steamer steering to the north, which upon making out the *Martaban* altered her course directly for us, and when within one mile, set the Confederate flag and fired a gun across our bows. We answered immediately by the British ensign at the mast head and hove to. A boat was then sent to us from the steamer, in charge of an officer and a crew, armed with cutlasses and revolvers. On coming alongside, the officer went, unlike an enemy, demanding to see the ship's papers, which he immediately did. The papers were, register, port clearance and bill of lading. Upon examination, the officer informed me that they were not satisfactory, and that he should take charge until he could communicate with his Commander, Capt. SEMMES, of the *Alabama*; calling my present vessel one of which he was ordered on the forenoon of the 29th, to take possession. He then proceeded to express his sincere gratification for kindness shown to the crew of the *Alabama* by the authorities and European inhabitants of Macassar, who interested themselves in our every want in the most generous manner, and requested me promise, in a manner befitting a gentleman—they destroying entire expense, we being entirely destitute."

A DEFENCE OF CAPT. SEMMES.

From the Straits Times, Dec. 12.

We have received the following communication from Mr. BEAVER, and which we published yesterday in an extra:

To the Editor of the Daily Times:

SIR: A false report having been attempted to be given to the conviction by Capt. SEMMES of his belligerent rights in burning the vessel under his command, the *Sea Bird*, formerly the *Texas Star*, of Boston, United States, I request you to publish the following copy of the deposition of Mr. RAMSEL, who was the Master of the Merchant Vessel. The original is in my possession.

I have received information that the American vessels *Geneva* and *Highlander* have also been burned by the *Alabama*. I remain, &c., R. B. BEAVER.

SINGAPORE, Dec. 9—3 P. M., 1863.

DEPOSITION OF CAPTAIN S. B. PIKE, OF THE MARTABAN, OF MOULMEIN.

Q. What is your name?—Ans. Samuel B. Pike.

Q. Where were you born?—Ans. Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Q. Are you a naturalized citizen of ANY foreign Government?—Ans. I am not.

Q. How long have you been in command of the *Martaban*, formerly the *Texas Star*?—Ans. About two years and a half.

Q. In what port of the United States was the *Texas Star* registered?—Ans. She was built and registered at Boston.

Q. Has she ever been out the register in America?—Ans. There was a change of ownership, and she has not been American register.

Q. Who were the owners under the last American register?—Ans. John Atkins, Samuel Stephen, George L. Ingraham, and myself.

Q. What proportion of the ship did you own?—Ans. One-sixth.

Q. When did you sail from the last port in the United States?—Ans. A year ago last July.

Q. It is stated in the present British register that Mr. Ward Riddel Currie is the owner? Ans. That is an I understood it.

Q. Do you state under your oath that this sale was a bona fide sale?—Ans. I do not state this.

Q. Do you not know that it was intended merely as a cover to prevent capture?—Ans. Yes, I do know it.

(Signed) S. B. PIKE.

(Signed) Witnessed by W. P. SMITH, Captain's Clerk.

LETTER FROM CAPT. PIKE.

To the Editor of the Straits Times.

SINGAPORE, Thursday, Dec. 31—3 P. M.

SIR: With reference to my note of yesterday, containing a letter from Mr. R. B. BEAVER, Esq., U. S. Consul, stating that "a false report had been attempted to be given to the conviction, by Capt. SEMMES, of his belligerent rights in burning the vessel *Martaban*, of Moulmein," I beg to state that previous to the burning of that British vessel under my command, I signed no paper or document whatever, nor submitted to any examination such as that said to have been signed by my name.

I shall detail the particulars of my interview with Capt. SEMMES, the only one I had with him before he burnt the vessel I commanded, and to the truth of which I pledge my honor.

Three hours before he boarded me, came into my cabin, and asked him to be seated; he replied: "I shall sit down" and denounced to me my papers; I handed him my register, a register emanating from the British authorities at Moulmein, which he examinedly read, respecting aloud the name of the owner, Mr. MARK RIDDELL CURRIE, of Moulmein, a British subject, and also the date of execution. Turning to me, he said: "Are you not encumbered with any false papers; you ought to have a certificate of sale," and (some document which I do not remember) immediately adding, "I shall burn your ship." I protested against this decision, stating that my papers were regular and were positive proof of the nationality of my ship. Paying no attention to this he then, with the register in his hand, directed his officer to leave the vessel, and immediately left the ship.

As correctly as I can calculate, the interview did not last more than three minutes. This is the true state of the case, to the best of my recollection, so help me God. I am, &c., SAMUEL B. PIKE.

P. S.—In the middle of the night, when on board the *Alabama*, many hours after the ship was burnt, I was asked some questions and signed a paper, the contents of which I do not clearly remember—imagine the state of my mind at that time.

CAPTURE AND BURNING OF THE CONTEST.

From the Java Times, Dec. 14.

We have been favored with the following particulars of the capture of the North American vessel *Contest*, Lucas master, from Yokohama to New-York, with a cargo of tea and rags of sundry descriptions:

On the 18th November last, at 11 A. M., we took death bearings from the S. W., and S.S.W. While proceeding on the starboard tack, discovered a sail on our weather beam running down before the wind, studding sails on both sides. At 11.15 A. M., made it out to be a steamer showing American colors. Shortly after, she fired a gun; this being at about 11.30, and ten minutes later she fired another gun suddenly. The steamer hauled down the American colors and hoisted a strange flag, being white with red union and a blue cross and stars in it. Supposing then she was a privateer, we got alarmed; and, as the steamer continued to steer after us, we kept the ship off two points, and set the royals and foretopmast-studding sail. The steamer then fetched up and fired a heavy gun, the shot falling a short distance astern. At 1 P. M., the wind getting light, the steamer gained on us rapidly. At 1.15 P. M. she passed up on our weather beam and fired another gun, the ball passing between the fore and mainmast. Seeing then no chance of escape, we hove the ship to. The steamer came up close alongside, and sent an armed boat, and the officer in command informed us that the ship was a prize to the Confederate steamer *Alabama*. The ensign was still flying, and he ordered us to haul it down, and to get the papers and bring them on board of the *Alabama* for inspection. They were presented to Capt. SEMMES, who examined them, and gave orders to have the ship made ready for burning. The Lieutenant immediately proceeded on board of the *Contest*, taking the master with him, for the purpose of procuring some clothing, and restricted him to one trunk and the officers and crew to one bag of clothing each. He then ordered the ship to be brought to anchor. The master stayed in the ship about half an hour, and was ordered to go on board of the *Alabama* with a passenger, the officers and crew remaining on board of the *Contest*, to assist in taking out the stores and provisions, and transport them on board of the *Alabama*. All the nautical instruments, charts, books, and every paper; also a quantity of Japanese curiosities, were taken, and, having removed officers and crew on board of the *Alabama*, a boat was sent to the *Contest*, which set fire to her forecastle. At 9 P. M. the steamer got under weigh, and proceeded to the westward. At the time the ship was fired, she was lying in lat. 8° 14' south, and lon. 106° 56' east, being about 61 English miles north from Batavia.

In the morning they examined our clothing, and took from the Captain $65 he had in the chest. We proceeded in the *Alabama* under sail up towards the Karimata Passage. While at anchor close to Sanzon Island, on the 19th November, at 11 A. M., a ship was reported from the masthead. At 3 P. M., the ship came within three miles of us, and showed Dutch colors, and the numbers for the ship to come within hail having been hoisted, an armed boat was sent to the vessel, stating that she was a Dutch surveying steamer. Another armed boat was then sent to the ship to make arrangements with the Captain to take the master, officers and crew of the *Contest* on board, and to land them at the nearest port. The ship proved to be the *Avalanche*, Russell, master, from Singapore, bound to London, and the Captain kindly consented to take us. We were all transferred on board the *Avalanche* that afternoon, at 6 o'clock, and landed at Batavia on the afternoon of 20th November.

The *Alabama* was apparently short of coals and provisions. The discipline was bad on board, and the crew all appeared very dissatisfied. When we left the *Alabama* she was still lying at anchor.

THE DANISH WAR.

SCHLESWIG AND THE DANNEWERKE.

The following description of the positions just evacuated by the Danes will be found of interest:

Originally constructed by the Sovereigns of the North, Queen MARGARET, and, as some say, even earlier, the Dannewerke extended from Reithgestadt to the Selker Noer of Busterf, and consisted of a simple rampart sweeping inward with a moat in front in a sharp angle of the Thuresberg, at hill which has long disappeared in the neighborhood of the village of Hestetye. The object of this fortification was to protect the town of Schleswig, which is situated at the head of the Schlei, against an attack from the southward, and at that time the Schlei, a perfectly impassable swamp, formed a part of the fortification. This fortification was extended by including the whole bay, more than six German miles, while the rampart had only been of a length of two German miles. The weak point of this position was on the west side, where, towards the open country, it was unfortified, and could, therefore, easily be assaulted in the rear.

In this direction the only defence was a broad earth stream with a swampy bed, the Treene, which, however, offered not a trifling obstacle to a determined enemy. In 1848, the so-called rampart consisted only of a continuous hilly elevation of the ground, with a depression in front denoting where formerly had been the moat, and hence it was that the German troops were able to take it at the first attack. The principal combat took place on the heights surrounding the town of Schleswig, where the village of Busterf formed a kind of suburb. On that day a trifling skirmish took place at the only ford over the Schlei, at Missunde, where a few companies of Schleswig-Holsteiners forced a passage across the ford against the volunteers under ALBEDYLL and VON ASS. TARN, whereby the Danes were compelled to retreat earlier than they otherwise would have done.

At the present the nature of the fortifications is entirely changed. Since 1850 the attention of the Danes has been directed to strengthening the Dannewerke, and they have chiefly endeavored to fortify the weak point on the river Treene, and oppose sufficient obstacles to another attack from the rear.

Twocklenes their object they took possession of the town of Frederickstadt, where the above-named river falls into the Eider. This place they fortified, and as is well known the Schleswig-Holsteiners at the close of 1850 vainly endeavored to take it by assault. At present Frederickstadt, with the *tete du pont* on the Holstein Bank of the Eider, forms, on account of its swampy situation, an uncommonly strong point, since the passage over the Eider is completely commanded on this side, and it could only be reduced by a regular and very difficult siege. Even supposing the troops were to turn the Treene either above or below Frederickstadt, little would be gained since the whole land as far as Frederickstadt, two German miles beyond Schleswig, is cut up by canals and water-courses which can all be filled by opening fourteen sluices, arranged for that purpose in the Treene. The few dams which form the means of communication in this extensive system of inundation works are in addition commanded at all fitting points by entrenchments and larger works as for in Hollingstedt. At the commencement of the town of Schleswig, on the heights rising from the main land, a series of powerful batteries, armed with guns of the heaviest calibre, offer a new hindrance to the advancing foe. The Austrians, to whose share, according to the latest accounts, the task of attacking this position is to fall, will find it no easy matter. Still the difficulties which await the Prussians in their advance by the Rendsburg road are still greater. The intrenchments commence at this point at the village of Wedelspang, and the first line stretches towards the east through the Selkes Noer to the Schlei, toward the west in the neighborhood of the Rothen Krug, to which point the batteries extend from the opposite direction of Hollingstedt, and at the junction the defences are crowned with a very powerfully armed and fortified battery. A second line of intrenchments commences behind these, with a strong block-house at Busterf, consecrated to a small fortress, and culminates in the opposite direction at Hustye, which, again, being transformed into a kind of large *place d'armes*, is connected with Hollingstedt by a series of smaller intermediate works. This second line entirely commands the first, and Busterf in particular appears impregnable by assault, owing to the deep and extended Busterf dyke, situated between that place and the Schlei.

A third and last line of intrenchments extends from the town of Schleswig over the Erdbeerburg, the Ansoten höhe, and the Pulverhois, as far as the Zoological Gardens, and here, again it is connected with the works extending from Husbye and the village of Sorubyke. Finally, to prevent a passage of the Schlei and an attack from thence, the fort at Missunde is powerfully fortified, and a very strong *tete du pont* constructed there.

Intrenchments, furnished with guns of the heaviest calibre, are also raised at every point where any attempt of the sort could possibly be made.

ROYAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

From the London News.

Mr. BRIGHT, in his recent speech at Birmingham, referred to the complications in foreign politics which arose from our royal marriages. Without prejudging the question how far the action of our Government with reference to foreign States is, or can be, influenced by the family ties of the sovereign, we may point out some of those connections, some of which are less known than others.

The Prince of Wales, as every one knows, is married to the daughter of the King of Denmark, one of the parties to this German contest. His eldest sister, Princess Royal, is married to the Prince Royal of Prussia—one of the parties opposed to the King of Denmark. His second sister, the Princess ALICE, is married to the Prince Louis of Hesse Darmstadt, whose mother is a Princess of Prussia, and whose brother is an officer in the Prussian army.

These are direct relationships; but there are others scarcely less so with which the public are not so well acquainted.

Prince FREDERICK of Augustenburg—the Duke of Augustenburg as he is generally called here, although that title properly belongs to his father—is a very close connection of our royal family, and is much better known to the court than to the people of these realms. It will be remembered that when the mother of Queen VICTORIA married His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent she was a widow. She was first married, in the year 1803, to the Prince SERENE CHARLES of Leiningen, who died July 4, 1814. By this marriage the Duchess of Kent had one son, born 1804, and one daughter, born 1807, who were consequently half-brother and half-sister of the Queen.

The Queen's half-brother, CHARLES, Prince of Leiningen, died 1856, and was succeeded by his son, Prince EMICH of Leiningen, nephew of the Queen, who is a Captain in the Royal Navy of Great Britain.

The half sister of the Queen, the Princess ANNE FEODOROWNA of Leiningen, married in 1828 Ernest Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. He died in 1860, leaving a widow and five children, the latter nephews and nieces of the Queen. Of these children, the third son, Prince VICTOR of Hohenlohe, who took the name of "COUNTY GLEICHEN" on his marriage with a daughter of Admiral Sir FAIRFAX MOORSOM, is a Captain in our Royal Navy. His next sister, the Princess ADELAIDE VICTORIA of Hohenlohe (born 1835,) married "FREDERICK CHRISTIAN AUGUSTUS, Prince Hereditary of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderbourg-Augustenburg," the Pretender to the sovereignty of the imaginary State of Schleswig-Holstein, who is by his marriage the Queen's nephew.

Besides these relationships of our royal family with the contending parties there are others less immediate. The King LEOPOLD of Belgium is the Queen's uncle. His eldest son and heir, the Duke of BRABANT, is married to an Archduchess of Austria, and his daughter, the Princess CHARLOTTE, is married to the Archduke FERDINAND MAXIMILIAN, brother of the Emperor of Austria, another party to the contest. Besides these connections the Duchess of Cambridge, who was a Princess of Hesse Cassel, is an aunt of the Queen of Denmark, who was also a Princess of Hesse Cassel.

Every party to the Dano-Germanic contest may, therefore, be said to be more or less immediately connected with the royal family of Great Britain.

YANKEE TRICKS.

The London *Herald* publishes the following characteristic card:

SIR: Soon after the commencement of the American war the Yankees resorted to the trick of getting up facsimiles of Richmond papers, in type, paper, and size, of copying their advertisements, and then filling up with reading matter of Northern manufacture. These papers were then put into the mails received, copied from, and circulated without suspicion, as Southern "utterances."

The English press is now the victim of another "trick" of the same sort. A document, copied from the Northern papers, is now going the rounds of the Continental and English press, which purports to be the official report of Mr. MALLORY, the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, to the Congress in Richmond. As it is take-in by the most transparent evidence of a hoax, and I know many of its statements to be false. Please, therefore, ensure your readers that no such document has ever been issued by the Secretary of the Confederate Navy, and so help me to "nail to the counter" the spurious thing also. Yours truly,

Jan. 30. H. F. HALNE.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Gen. Pickett's Plans—Its Political Aspect—North Carolina Unionism.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

NEWBERN, N. C., Saturday, Feb. 13, 1864.

The heavy forces of the enemy which one week since were encamped about twenty miles west of us, have beat a final retreat. The reports which then came, that they had been reinforced and were returning to renew the "siege," was received the more readily, since they had accomplished so little in the first attack. Was it probable that this large importation of forces from Virginia, this gathering of seamen from Savannah and the James, for the purpose of taking Newbern, was to end in such utter failure? We had reason to expect that a more serious effort would be made by the Confederate army, and that it was not, shows that they suffered severely whenever they met our forces on the 1st of February. Gen. PICKETT, with his meagrepolis, returned to Richmond, declaring that he met the enemy "in force" at Batchelor's Creek! For the first hour eleven brave men on picket, and during the whole engagement not over 500, made up the force on our side.

This whole movement must have had a political as well as a military object. It was to check, at least, the growing disaffection in North Carolina with the Confederate Government, so called. Its political effect, however, may be worse than a single failure, from the abortive effort of the army. From the almost openly hostile attitude of North Carolina to the Confederate Government, it is natural for us to conclude that the Old North State is ready to own her allegiance to the National Government.

If, however, Unionism outside the lines is at all like that manifested in our midst amongst those once known as the "aristocracy," the conclusion is by no means justified. These so-called Unionists have the greatest dread of "making up," as they form it, with Northern men. Not a dozen of the old citizens of Newbern and Unionists many call themselves, are willing to worship God in the same congregations with men from the North. It is our firm conviction that those men care no more for the National Government than they do Mr. DAVIS and his *confreres*. There is, however, a true Union element in this State. But it is no more from natural necessity than anything intelligent and voluntary. This is found among the poor whites. A few days since, we saw at the Provost-Marshal's office thirty-five of this class, mostly deserters from the rebel army, all having taken the oath, and desirous of going to New-York. They were not only desirous to mix with Northerners, but to go North. Perhaps six hundred of this class have taken the oath since the 1st of January, and daily squads of them come in for that purpose. Among them, the President's Proclamation has its effect. They are not bound to the Confederacy by the pride of opinion, and interest and culture. They have no pet institution to sacrifice, in which they can take any intelligent interest. The Southern aristocrat has got to revolutionize all his ideas of social and political life to be a supporter of the National Government, as it has been changed by the logic of events. The poor white has nothing to lose. The former slaveholder has lost property, suffered much, and must humble himself to be a loyal man. We of the North can scarcely realize how tremendous this change is.

One thing we must set down to the credit of the enemy. They destroyed but very little except public property. All of Col. CLARKE'S camp was left standing. Not even the *camp furniture* was broken; as had not the One Hundred and Thirty-second, at the time of abandoning it, used the torch, this tasty little house would have welcomed them on their return.

The list of the losses of this regiment is here given complete.

LIST OF KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND REGIMENT NEW-YORK INFANTRY WHILE IN ACTION AT BATCHELOR'S CREEK, NEAR NEWBERN, N. C., FEB. 1, 1864:

Killed—Second Lieut. Arnold Zanetti, of Co. A, Acting Quartermaster.

Wounded—First Lieut. Joseph Gearing, Co. C—seriously in the face: Second Lieut. W. A. C. Ryan—seriously in the back.

Captured—First Lieut. Samuel Leith, Acting Second Lieut. Edith—on duty at Beech Grove.

COMPANY A.

Wounded—Corp. Christian Waller, John Y. Bleakdell, John Heifut.

Missing—Sergt. Albert Richter, Edward Waller, Louis Strait, James Rogers.

COMPANY B.

Missing—Sergt. D. Niles (wagon master), Corp. Bernard Schmidt, Luther Cooke, Abram Vanderbeck. Captured by the enemy at Beech Grove—Pius Daumand, Frederick Puhl.

COMPANY C.

Wounded—Corp. Hance Walnut—slightly.

Missing—John Barnett, Chas. Flanegan, Benjamin Barnes, Daniel Heffernann, Peter Keogh, Henry Smith.

COMPANY D.

Killed—James Rath.

Missing—Corp. Van Rattenstein, Corp. Christian Wolfe, Henry Hamilton, William Kennedy, Jacob Krab, Frederick Muller, Peter McGovern, David Stitt.

COMPANY E.

Wounded and Missing—Pvt. Buckly.

Missing—Herman Gardner, William Priest, Daniel Thompson, James Irwin, Arsene Colas, Abram Dalton, Samuel Reynolds (teamster), Patrick Keegan, Michael Kain.

COMPANY F.

Missing—Sergt. Daniel Gribbins, Corp. Sherman Smith, Thomas Carron, William Freeland, Michael Rooney, William Burke, Richard Saisk, Joseph Sapner.

COMPANY G.

Killed—Patrick Krogh, Robert Harris.

Missing—Sergt. John E. Bushman, James Gass, Charles Wagerman, Joseph Mooney, William Ledner, David Kearny, Michael Rafferty, Thomas Butler, Thomas Dennis, John Huber, William Stevenson, William Dunning.

COMPANY H.

Missing—Corp. Francis Dunleary.

Missing—Corp. John H. Miller, John Coffy.

COMPANY I.

Missing—Corp. James Fries, Michael McLane, John Smith, George Collamore, Russell H. Roberts.

COMPANY K.

Killed—Aaron Beatty.

Wounded—Joseph Emery.

Missing—Sergts. Benjamin B. Kinsley, Edward V. Ford, Samuel Mahon; Quarter-Master Sergt. Joseph Garvin; Aaron B. Houseman, Hugh Collins, George Clifford, Patrick McCarty, John Garney, George Davis, John McGowan, James Wilson, Jacob Bowman.

Taken Prisoner—Corp. John Clark.

Total casualties of the 132d N. Y. Infantry:

Officers killed, wounded and missing..... 5
Enlisted men:..... 92
Grand total..... 97

Enlisted men are reported as missing because no other facts are thus far known, but it is presumed that a large proportion of the missing were killed, as the enemy carried off their own as well as ours and buried them promiscuously.

The Ninth Vermont lost but 97 men at Newbern; I have not been able to secure an accurate account of the casualties. The injuries done to our railroad communications have all been repaired; the cars now run regularly to Morehead.

Gen. PECK arrived last Tuesday, the 9th inst. With the reinforcements who have come, and the increase of the number of gunboats, we have all settled down into a calm monotony again.

The Fire at Gloucester, Mass.

BOSTON, Saturday, Feb. 20.

The loss by the fire at Gloucester is estimated at $200,000, on which there is an insurance of $100,000.

Obituary.

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Feb. 20.

GEORGE A. COFFEY, United States District Attorney, died this afternoon of paralysis.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

DISPATCHES TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 20.

CAPTURE OF BLOCKADE-RUNNERS.

The Navy Department has received dispatches from the East Blockading squadron, detailing the capture of the British schooner *Hiles* and British sloop *Mary*, both from Nassau, while attempting to run out of Jupiter Inlet, Fla., with cargoes of cotton. One of the passengers on the latter was on his way to purchase machinery, with the intention of starting a woolen factory in the South. The sloop *Caroline* was also captured while attempting to run out of Jupiter Inlet. The British sloop *Young Racer*, laden with salt, was run ashore and destroyed. The schooner Wm. A. Kain was captured while waiting an opportunity to run the blockade with 87 bales of cotton and nearly 2,000 pounds of tobacco.

BENEFITS OF THE AMNESTY.

A circular letter to District Attorneys has been issued from the Attorney-General's office, setting forth that many persons against whom criminal indictments or against whose property proceedings under the Confiscation Laws are pending in the courts of the United States, growing out of their participation in the existing rebellion, have in good faith taken the oath prescribed by the President's Proclamation of December last, and have therefore entitled themselves to the full pardon and restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and where rights of third parties have intervened which that Proclamation offers and secures. The President has accordingly directed instructions to be issued to the District Attorney to discontinue such prosecutions, when it is satisfactorily shown the oath of allegiance has been taken in good faith. It is not necessary that a deed of pardon, signed by the President, shall be produced, as the President would find it impossible to sign so many papers.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GUNBOAT.

The gunboat *De Soto* has thus far proved herself the most successful of all the vessels on the Atlantic blockade. She has captured seventeen blockade-runners, whose aggregate value is near $1,200,000.

THE WAR IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Capture of Col. Ferguson and other Rebels—Reported Release of 1,500 Union Prisoners.

CINCINNATI, Saturday, Feb. 20.

A special dispatch to the *Commercial*, from Louisa, Ky., says:

"On the 16th, Col. GALLUP surprised Col. FERGUSON'S command, in Wayne County, Va., capturing sixty prisoners, including FERGUSON, his Surgeon and two Lieutenants, eighty stand of arms, a large number of mules horses, and all the rebel supplies of forage, ammunition and subsistence. It was Col. FERGUSON'S command that captured Gen. SCAMMON recently."

The dispatch adds that 1,500 Union prisoners were released.

FROM FORT SMITH.

The Rebel General Price Guerrillas—Perils of Refugees from Texas.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Saturday, Feb. 20.

Intelligence has reached here that Gen. PRICE has received a sixty days' furlough to enable him to go to Texas and Mexico. The belief at headquarters and throughout the rebel army is that he will never return. He left Camden ten days ago, with a small escort, in citizen's dress.

Gen. CURTIS, on his return, and when near the old battle-field of Prairie Grove, while separated from the main body of his escort, was fired upon several times from an ambush, but escaped unhurt.

The survivors of a party of Texan loyalists arrived here yesterday. The main party were attacked in the Kenosha Valley, twenty miles from here, and all but 11 were killed or captured. All the roads are now closely guarded by the rebels, making it very difficult to escape.

From Cairo.

CAIRO, Saturday, Feb. 20.

The steamer *White Cloud* arrived this morning from Duval's Bluff. She brought 423 bales of cotton to Memphis.

The steamer *O'Brien* was burnt at Columbus, Ky., yesterday. She was owned by the Government, and was not very valuable.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to burn the steamer *Mississippi* at Memphis on the 17th inst.

Memphis Cotton market inactive. Strict Middling, 58c.@60c.; good Middling, 56c.

CAIRO, Friday, Feb. 19.

The steamer *O'Brien*, in the Government service, was burned at the landing at Columbus, Ky., to-day. The boat's cargo is a total loss.

Reliable information from Southeast Tennessee says that refugees are leaving Tennessee and Georgia by thousands. Many of them are in a starving condition. Large numbers of deserters from the rebel army continue to arrive at Chattanooga daily.

The Confederate scrip is worth only five cents on a dollar.

From Fortress Monroe.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, Feb. 20.

The *American's* special from Annapolis this morning says the steamer *Louisiana*, from Fortress Monroe, arrived at 7 A. M. Six escaped officers cannot get to Baltimore on account of ice. The boat is all right. The steamer *Columbia* and thirty other vessels are lying off Greenbo's Point. An ice-bound regiment of colored troops has just arrived from St. Mary's County.

Election in Pennsylvania.

INDIANA, PENN., Saturday, Feb. 20.

The special election to fill the vacancy in the State Senate, caused by the resignation of Maj. HARRY WHITE, now a prisoner at Richmond, took place in this district yesterday. Dr. ST. CLAIR, the Union candidate, has a majority in this county of about 1,500. As Armstrong County cannot give more than two or three hundred against him, Dr. ST. CLAIR elected by about a 1,500 majority in the district.

The Twenty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

BOSTON, Saturday, Feb. 20.

The Twenty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment, which arrived to-day, is receiving an enthusiastic welcome, including a military escort to Faneuil Hall and a dinner by the city authorities.

The Twenty-fourth Regiment was formed from the old New England Guard, and mainly volunteered from Boston and its vicinity.

They have re-enlisted for the war.

From New-Orleans.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARAGO.

The United States transport *Arago*, H. A. GARDNER, commanding, from New-Orleans via Key West, consigned to Maj. STEWART VAN VLIET, Quartermaster U. S. A., arrived yesterday morning.

The *Arago* crossed the Bar at the S. W. Pass of the Mississippi at 7 A. M., Feb. 11, arrived at Key West at 5 P. M. Feb. 13. Sailed hence at 9.30 A. M. Feb. 15, and arrived at New-York at 7.30 A. M. Feb. 20.

She brings the Fourteenth Regiment Maine Volunteers and First Maine Battery, (both recruited.) Also a mail from Key West.

ARRIVAL OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The *George Washington*, R. V. GARNER commanding, which left New-Orleans Feb. 15, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon.

We are indebted to Purser ARNOLD for favors.

THE WAR IN MISSISSIPPI.

Further Concerning Gen. Sherman's March Through Jackson.

PRECIPITATE RETREAT OF THE REBELS.

Trepidation of the People of Mobile.

REPORTS OF DESERTERS AND REFUGEES.

CAIRO, Saturday, Feb. 20.

An officer from the Big Black River reports that just before reaching Jackson, Mississippi, a skirmish ensued between a part of Gen. SHERMAN'S forces, and a body of 4,000 to 5,000 rebels, in which the latter were defeated, and forty captured.

Our army passed through Jackson in two columns, the enemy retreating across Pearl River on precipitately that his pontoons, two pieces of artillery, and a number of prisoners fell into our hands.

Our forces seized provisions of all kinds and swept on.

Grand demonstrations is said to exist among the Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri regiments, that large numbers of deserters are coming into our lines.

Gen. SHERMAN reached Meridian last night after leaving Vicksburgh.

A portion of Gen. TUTTLE'S division got isolated, was cut off from the expedition, and returned to Vicksburgh.

Gen. MCARTHUR is in command of the District of Vicksburgh, Gen. MCPHERSON having accompanied Gen. SHERMAN with most of his corps.

Passengers from Memphis report that the inhabitants of that city fear some of an attack upon that city by the Federal forces.

Fifteen thousand rebel troops are reported to be in and about the city.

The Union sentiment prevailed in a considerable extent, and would be expressed as soon as protection was invoked to the citizens.

Nothing was known of the reported fight in Fort Morgan.

The reports that Gen. FORREST'S command of cavalry and mounted infantry, in their expedition from Mississippi, had a fight with FERGUSON'S men are confirmed.

Gen. BUCKLAND, in command at Memphis, is guarding which fever there by his judicious administration of affairs.

Ice is running heavily in the Mississippi at Cairo, and fifty miles below.

Passage of the Big Black.

Correspondence of the St. Louis Union.

VICKSBURGH, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

Yesterday I went out to Big Black, to see McPHERSON'S army corps cross on the pontoon bridge. It was a magnificent sight. They commenced crossing at 1 P. M. At four o'clock the train returned toward the city. Six miles from the bridge we found the rear of the moving column. The entire column was fourteen miles long. HOSMER'S army corps, equally large, crossed on pontoon bridges at MESSENGER'S Ford, five miles above the bridge. Gen. THOMAS, with his body-guard, was moving between the columns. A large force was sent up the YAZOO in HAINE'S Bluff, to move between the YAZOO and Big Black to prevent any flank movement the enemy might attempt to cut off the supply trains. The iron clad gunboats will try to get up to Grenada on the Yalobusha, to cooperate with GRIERSON'S Cavalry, 10,000 strong, who were to start from Memphis and Grand Junction on Monday last. They will drive FORREST'S command through Canton, twenty-five miles north of Jackson, where Bishop POLK is stationed with his rebel conscripts. There will be either a fight or a foot race from there to Jackson, which place is by some regarded strongly fortified with cannon behind it. It is confidently expected that our cavalry will be able to bring into the field some thirty-five or forty thousand men. There may be some hard fighting, but conscripts cannot stand before veterans. I never saw an army start on a march with men who looked so full of fight as SHERMAN'S command. It is composed entirely of white men. The only negroes I saw on the march were the body servants of the officers, and these entirely unarmed. HAWKINS' Brigade of the Corps d'Afrique were sent up the YAZOO a few days since to skirmish round, whilst OSBAND'S regiment was taking in some corn and hay, &c. They were attacked by about fifteen rebels in a skirt of the woods, when they double-quicked it back to the gunboats. The same may be said of the rebel pickets when we moved yesterday from the bridge. As soon as the cavalry are mounted I expect they shall be dismounted to join their brethren in the mire in the cister

The New-York Times Saturday Review of Books and Art.

NEW BOOKS.

ALIKE OF NORWOOD. An Epic of the Great War. By R. V. Carstarphen.

Mr. Carstarph astonishes on a climbing trail when in world ally the Muses with great struggle that new centuries the nation. Epic poetry seems the natural utterance of one of the necessity of "doing or dying," and in some of the world's battles. Mr. Carstarph has not escaped the fate of many another writer of martial verse. He has chosen a subject which is not only of present interest, but which has in it the elements of permanent literature. Whether he has succeeded in his task is a question which only the future can answer. Of one thing we are sure, that he has written a book which will be read with pleasure by many who are not specially interested in the theme. He has a vigorous style, a fine command of language, and a poetic imagination which, if it does not always lift him to the highest level of poetry, at least prevents him from falling into the slough of commonplace. He has also the gift of narration, and tells his story in such a way that the reader's interest is kept at the highest pitch from beginning to end. The poem is divided into twelve books, each of which is devoted to the description of a single battle or group of battles. The author has evidently made a careful study of the campaigns which he describes, and his descriptions of the various engagements are clear and vivid. He has also a keen appreciation of the picturesque, and has introduced into his narrative many striking pictures of the scenery of the country in which the battles were fought. Here, for example, is a description of the battle of Fredericksburg:

> Through the mist the sun looked down
> Upon the city and the town,
> Upon the river and the plain,
> Upon the hosts of Blue and Gray
> Marshaled for the deadly fray,
> Upon the cannon and the train.
>
> Through the mist the sun looked down
> Upon the city and the town,
> Upon the river and the plain,
> Upon the hosts of Blue and Gray
> Locked in the deadly fray,
> Upon the cannon and the slain.

Mr. Carstarph has also a keen appreciation of the pathetic side of war, and has described with much power the sufferings of the wounded and dying. Here is a picture of the battle-field after the fight:

> Through the night the wounded lay
> Upon the field of battle gray,
> Where the dead were thickest strewn,
> Where the fallen lay in heaps
> Where the ground was red with gore,
> Where the cannon's thunder roared
> Through the day and through the night,
> Where the shot and shell flew fast
> Through the day and through the night,
> Where the dead and dying lay
> Through the night and through the day.

Mr. Carstarph has written a book which will be read with interest by many who are not specially interested in the subject with which it deals, and which will be found a valuable addition to the literature of the war.

A POPULAR HAND BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. By Canon Cremer. 16mo, pp. 300. New-York: Thomas Whittaker.

A valuable little manual of the subject of which it treats, and one which will be found very useful by Sunday-school teachers and others who are engaged in Bible classes. It is not almost every history and history of the Bible which is published in this country, and the author has evidently had in mind the wants of those who are engaged in this work. The book is divided into three parts, the first of which contains a brief introduction to the study of the New Testament, and a description of the manuscripts in which it has been handed down to us. The second part contains a history of the text of the New Testament, and the third part a history of the Canon of the New Testament. The book is well printed, and is provided with a number of maps and illustrations.

—A new scheme for a large public circulating library, on a system somewhat similar to that of the Astor Library, but of a more popular character, is about to be started in London, under the title of "The London Library." Among the patrons are Prof. Huxley, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lecky, Mr. Froude, Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Browning, Mr. Leslie Stephen, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Goldwin Smith, Mr. Frederic Harrison

AN INTERESTING TRIAL TRIP.

Decided Test of the Mechanical Principles Employed in Steering.

The Trial—The Final Assault on the Commissioners of Metrics.

Impudence of Armor.

Yesterday was the day appointed for the trial trip of the new steam steering apparatus, which has been fitted on board the steamer Corsair, lying at the foot of Pine street, East River. The Corsair is a fine, large, roomy vessel, and has been employed for some months past in the Liverpool trade. She is commanded by Capt. Jonas Bowditch, who is a thorough seaman, and has had charge of the Corsair during the whole of her present voyage. The vessel was accordingly in charge of Capt. Bowditch when she left her dock at the foot of Pine street, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, and proceeded down the East River, through the Narrows, and out to sea. The weather was very favorable for the trial, the wind blowing a fresh breeze from the northwest, and the sea being comparatively smooth. The Corsair is a screw steamer, and has two engines of 300 horse power each. She is 1,500 tons burden, and was built by Messrs. Steers, of this city, in 1861. She is a very fine sea boat, and has made the passage from Liverpool to this port in the unusually short time of 10 days and 4 hours. She is a full-rigged ship, and has three masts. She is 220 feet long, 40 feet beam, and 23 feet deep. She is built entirely of wood, and is sheathed with copper. She has been thoroughly overhauled and refitted since her last voyage, and is in excellent condition. She has been fitted with the steering apparatus by Messrs. Lake & Gedney, of this city, and Capt. Bowditch, who has had charge of the vessel during the trial trip, has had ample opportunity of testing the merits of the apparatus.

The steering apparatus is the invention of Mr. Alexander Cunningham, of Glasgow, Scotland, and is known as the "Cunningham steering apparatus." It is the first time it has been tried on board of a steamer, and the trial yesterday was the first test of its merits. The apparatus is designed to obviate the necessity of the use of the ordinary steering wheel, and to substitute for it a small lever, which can be worked with the greatest ease by a single man. The lever is connected with the rudder by means of a system of rods and chains, and the motion of the lever is communicated to the rudder by means of a steam engine, which is placed on the deck of the vessel, and which is under the control of the man who works the lever. The engine is of 10 horse power, and is entirely self-acting. It is provided with a governor, which regulates the speed of the engine, and with a safety valve, which prevents the pressure of steam in the boiler from exceeding a certain limit. The engine is also provided with a contrivance which prevents the lever from being moved more than a certain distance in either direction, and which thus prevents the rudder from being turned more than a certain number of degrees

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1864.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

The price of the NEW-YORK TIMES (Daily) is Two Cents each except of the Sunday morning edition, which is Four Cents.

To Mail Subscribers the price is $8 per annum in advance, including the Sunday morning edition. It is $10.

The price of the SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES is:

One copy one year.....$2 00
Two copies one year.....3 00
Five copies one year.....12 00
Ten copies one year.....20 00

The SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES is sent to Clergymen at $2 25.

Fresh names may at any time be added to Clubs, both of the WEEKLY and SEMI-WEEKLY, at Club Rates.

The price of the WEEKLY TIMES is:

One copy one year.....$3 00
Three copies one year.....8 00
Five copies one year.....5 00
Ten copies one year.....15 00
—and an Extra Copy to any Club of Ten.
Twenty copies one year.....25 00
The WEEKLY TIMES is sent to Clergymen at.....1 25

Payments invariably in advance.

We have no authorized traveling Agents.

To any person who will send us a Club of Twenty, the SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES will be sent gratuitously for one year. To any one sending us a Club of Fifty, the DAILY TIMES will be sent gratis for one year. Address

H. J. RAYMOND & CO., Publishers.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

A dispatch from Cairo gives further details concerning the brilliant advance of Gen. SHERMAN'S army. It passed through Jackson, Miss., in two columns, driving the enemy so precipitately across Pearl River that he left his pontoons and two pieces of artillery behind him. Our forces seized provisions and supplies, and swept on, reaching Meridian in the short space of ten days after leaving Vicksburgh. Large numbers of desertion had come to our army from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi regiments. Refugees report that great fear is felt by the Mobilians at the threatened attack upon the city. The rebels have there a garrison of 15,000 men.

The steamships *Arago* and *George Washington* arrived yesterday from New-Orleans, the latter with dates to the 13th. The *Arago* stopped at Key West, whence she brings a mail. The 19th Maine Volunteers and the 1st Maine Battery, both reënlisted, came home by her on furlough. The *George Washington* brings advices from Indianola, Texas, to the 8th inst. Nearly all the troops there were reëmbarking. An expedition sent out in search of rebels and lumber had returned. They found no signs of the enemy, but brought in a lot of lumber. Gen. BANKS having gone North to testify in an important case at St. Louis, Gen. FITZ HENRY WARREN was in command of the division during his absence. At New-Orleans gold was quoted at 62½@64 per cent. premium. The cotton market was dull at 68½ for good ordinary to 70½ for strict middling. Sugar and molasses were in good demand. The *George Washington* passed the gunboat *Arizona* and bark *Anderson* going up the river; and on the 18th, when one hundred miles west of Tortugas, she passed the steamer *Merrimack*, bound for New-Orleans.

The Mobile *News* of the 21st ult. has the subjoined in regard to the local and military situation of that city: Our readers in the interior had best not give credence to flying rumors about Mobile. We hear it has been reported at Selma and Montgomery that the Yankee fleets had passed the forts and fighting was going on at the city. So far, we have heard no gun fire at Mobile. We shall keep our readers advised as to the movements of the enemy, so far as it is prudent. Commander FARRAGUT was reported at Pensacola, a few days ago, with nine vessels. It now appears that FARRAGUT has left Pensacola for New-Orleans. The scouts on the coast near the Perdido reported, some days since, twenty-three vessels steering eastward, and their supposed destination was Pensacola. No such fleet has gone into Pensacola. The movements of the enemy are quite mysterious, and so far his purposes are not developed. Whatever they may be, the country will be glad to learn that our military authorities are making all preparations and arrangements, on the hypothesis that an early attack on this city is contemplated.

Intelligence from Fort Smith, Ark., announces the retirement of the rebel Gen. PRICE to Mexico, on a continuous furlough, probably because of his well-settled convictions of the hopelessness of the cause of secession. The arrival of refugees from Texas has been quite numerous, but recently the rebels have made it quite difficult for fugitives to cross the Union lines in Arkansas.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* has a dispatch from Louisa, Ky., saying that on the 14th inst., Col. *GALLUP surprised the rebel Col. FERGUSON'S* command in Wayne County, West Virginia, captured 60 prisoners, four of whom were commissioned officers, eighty stand of arms, a number of stolen horses, and supplies of forage and ammunition. This FERGUSON is the person who recently captured Gen. SCAMMON. The report further says that 500 Union prisoners were released.

FROM EUROPE.

By the arrival yesterday of the steamship *Africa* at Halifax, we have three days' later advices from Europe. The news concerning the Dano-German war is very meagre. A dispatch from Hamburg on the morning of the 6th says that severe fighting has been going on, as numbers of wounded were constantly coming into Hamburg; but no particulars were received, and it was supposed that the Prussians had prohibited the transmission of news. A later dispatch announces the evacuation of Schleswig by the Danes, and its occupation by the Allies. Nothing is known as to the capture of Missunde. The attack on that position on the 2d was made by a force of two thousand Prussians, who were opposed by two thousand Danes. The Prussians twice attempted to carry the Danish works by assault, and were repulsed on both occasions with heavy loss. In the British Parliament the Queen's Speech had been under consideration by both Houses, and an address in reply had been adopted. In the course of the debate in the House of Lords on the foreign policy of the Government, Earl DERBY characterized the policy of Earl RUSSELL as humiliating to England, and repudiated the idea of British responsibility to the Government of the United States for the depredations of the *Alabama*. He trusted such a reply had been forwarded to Washington as would forever put an end to such demands. In his reply Earl RUSSELL said that England had not given the slightest promise of assistance to Denmark. In the Commons, during the discussion of the speech, Mr. DISRAELI expressed himself of the opinion that the Queen should have made some allusion to American affairs, and complained of her silence. Lord PALMERSTON replied vigorously, defending the course of the Government. At a ball given on the 3d inst. by LOUIS NAPOLEON, at the Tuileries, he remarked to a knot of Field-Marshals and Generals that the war in the North did not concern France, and her course, therefore, would be non-intervention—a sentiment which was consumed in by those to whom it was addressed.

GENERAL NEWS.

We learn from the Baltimore *American* that during last week the force of Marshal MCPHAIL succeeded in capturing one of the largest mails on the way to Dixie ever captured in this section of country. It consisted of letters from all parts of the United States, and had been left at a store on Baltimore-street, with a message to deliver it to a boy. It was given to the boy tied up in a newspaper, and by him delivered to the schooner *Kent*, bound to Herring Bay, Anne Arundel County. The schooner was taken on the river on suspicion of having goods bound for Dixie, and upon search the mail was found in a black traveling-bag belonging to one of the hands on board. An investigation traced it to the store spoken of, where the facts were learned about it. Besides the mail, a small lot of goods was found on board for Dixie, among which was a small package for Gen. WINDER, Provost-Marshal-General, Richmond, and a number of excellent maps of the harbor of Charleston, and other important points of military interest. Besides the above, the force of Marshal MCPHAIL discovered a large deposit of gun caps, military braid, drugs, &c., which had been left on the roadside by a blockade-runner. The lot of goods that were packed consisted of the *Blue Book* and a number of copies of the *Army and Navy Gazette* of the United States. This seizure reflects great credit upon Marshal MCPHAIL and his efficient officers.

At a late hour on Friday night last, a man named EDWARD HUNTER, murdered his wife at No. 239 Seventh-avenue, by cleaving her skull with a hatchet. There had been some difficulty between the husband and wife for two or three years past, and it is believed that he took this method of avenging his real or supposed injuries. He was promptly arrested by the police, and upon the rendition of a verdict by the Coroner's Jury against him, was committed to the Tombs for trial. A woman named MARY ANN JAMES was also murdered by her husband on Friday night at No. 61 Grand-street. She was literally beaten to a jelly with a club, or some other blunt weapon. The Coroner's Jury found a verdict against the offending husband. He was arrested by the Eighth Precinct Police and when arraigned gave his name as THOMAS MCKELL. The Coroner held him for trial.

The line-of-battle ship *New Hampshire*, at Portsmouth, N. H., it is understood, is to go to Port Royal to be the permanent guard-ship there in place of the old *Vermont*. On the arrival of the *New Hampshire* the crew and invalids of the *Vermont* will be transferred to her, and the latter ordered to some navy-yard for repairs.

Gen. SULLIVAN has directed Capt. FAITHFUL, Provost-Marshal of Western Maryland, to notify the Secessionists of his district that they will hereafter be assessed to make good all damages inflicted by their friends the guerrillas upon the property of the loyal citizens in his military district. A very large number of these highwaymen are from the vicinity of Baltimore.

Gen. ROSECRANS has authorized Bishop AMES to take possession of all Methodist buildings in the interior where pastors are disloyal, or where pulpits are unsupplied, with a view to appointing loyal pastors.

The Ordeal of Free Black Labor.

There has been nothing more remarkable in the history of the Slavery question, both here and in Europe, than the implicit faith which the public has always placed in the accounts of negro character and capabilities. This could, of course, scarcely be said if the subject had possessed no importance for the outside world, except an ethnological or physical one. In that case, nothing could be more natural than that the mass of people should be content with such accounts of them as those whites who had more dealings with them chose to tell; but the question of their laziness or industry, their strength or weakness, their acquisitiveness or carelessness, their docility or indocility, have, for over half a century, been of the very greatest interest in a commercial point of view. The supply of at least two of the articles which play the most prominent part in modern trade, is both entirely due to their labor. Their quality as laborers was, therefore, a matter of great interest to merchants, even while they were all slaves; and soon as any portion of them became free, of course it became of twice as great interest as ever. Accordingly, few discussions have ever been carried on with more violence and persistence than that about the industrial value of the few negroes of the British West Indies, and yet at the end of thirty years nobody seems to know much more about it than at the outset. The planters, whose ruin emancipation has either caused or precipitated, maintained stoutly that it was impossible to secure from free negroes the regular and steady labor necessary for the successful cultivation of either cotton or sugar. One portion of the public here and in England has always accepted their testimony as conclusive; another portion refused to believe them, both on general principles of human nature, and because the witnesses were interested parties and naturally prejudiced in favor of the slave system and against the negro. As the demand for cotton and sugar, and especially cotton, continued to increase, and as land was to be had in Jamaica and elsewhere for an old song, and as both Englishmen and Americans have been ransacking the earth for the last half century for things to speculate in, it will always remain a marvel that no effort was made up to this day to test the matter practically, by offering the free negroes regular wages for regular work. Nothing seems simpler than to go to Jamaica, buy a plantation, and try, cash in hand, to get the blacks to labor. Half the ventures in which merchants risk their capital every day are twice as wild as this, and yet it was positively never done; and if this war had not broken out, it is probable it never would have been done; a singular illustration of the force of a prejudice, even among such an intensely practical class as capitalists looking out for an investment.

An English cotton manufacturer, Mr. BARNES, has rendered commerce and free labor an invaluable service by at last applying to the matter the only test that is of the slightest value. He came to the conclusion, early in 1861, that the cotton trade of Great Britain could never be placed on a sound basis, as long as it was dependent on slave labor for the raw material, and determined, in spite of the forebodings of his friends in Manchester, to try what could be done in Jamaica by ready money and fair dealing. He bought an abandoned plantation, thickly wooded and covered by the tangled brushwood of the tropics. He called for labor for the purpose of clearing and cultivating it with a good deal of apprehension. It came in abundance. He began the work. The estate, in December, 1862, was cleared, fenced, and made ready for cotton planting by the Spring of last year. He got a good crop planted and picked, and is now receiving in England fine specimens of it. Of course many of our readers expect to hear that he had to hunt up negroes all over the island, and was worried to death by their irregularity, untrustworthiness and indolence. He has published a report of his operations, in which his testimony on these points is clear and decisive. He says:

"We have been told again and again that the black negroes in the West Indies won't work; that they are such an idle set they absolutely won't work; that they will do nothing but lie basking in the sun all day over, with their black faces turned toward the sun like lizards; that they won't do anything, not even work for money. Now this was a most serious objection, and we had to test its truth."

He did test it, and thus sums up the result:

"*We commenced in December, 1862, and as soon as the people were told what we were going to do, 22 men offered themselves the first week; during the next fortnight 50 more came; and so the number increased until at one time, including men, women and children, we had 226 persons employed, of those who were safe to us only at to eat and sleep.*"

And so it went on, until labor became so abundant that *the agent had sometimes to reject* as many as one hundred offers of labor in a week. And Mr. BARNES accounts for this extraordinary phenomenon, as many will no doubt consider it, in the following very simple fashion:

"The truth is, they have some of the common sense which prevails among working men here; for when a man works for another who won't pay, then the man won't work again. *Any agent started on the system of paying once a week on the given day, and he always paid in money.* Now, that is not the general rule. The general rule is to pay when you can, and some cannot pay very often, and then sometimes they will pay in 'meal or malt,' as we say, and not in money. But this is not convenient for the worker."

We cannot help calling attention to the remarkable confirmation which all this affords of the views put forward in the columns of this journal four years ago, in the remarkable series of letters addressed to it on the condition of the West India negroes, by the late Mr. SEWELL.

Rebel Needs and Resources.

The speech of HOWELL COBB, which we published a day or two since, pressed upon the people of Georgia two important points. The first was the absolute necessity of sending into the rebel army every man who could be found. He appealed to his hearers, with all the force that he was master of, to throw no obstacles in the way of the most stringent means of filling up the rebel ranks. If there was a prejudice which he could excite, if there was a false impression which he could produce, if there was a fear which he could call up before them, that would tend to prevent them from resisting or impeding this general conscription, he brought them all forward. He eulogized the rebel President, as he must needs when he was compelled to tell his hearers that he alone could say "who shall and who shall not be called into the field," and that "no other tribunal can decide that question: we must leave this power to him, or all must be lost;" and he had no words bitter enough for the men who tried to evade this call of the one man whom the necessities of the rebellion have clothed with absolute power over those deluded men who abandoned the Government of their fathers in pursuit of a "delusive phantom."

The next and full as urgent a requirement which he laid before them, was for food. He proclaimed that the Government must have their produce; that if it could pay them compensation, it would do so, and called upon them to "have confidence." But confidence, in the words of the Earl of Chatham, is a plant of slow growth, and the failures of hopes and promises, the breaches of faith most solemnly given, which mark the brief course of the rebellion, have not tended to make its growth luxuriant even in that region. He urged them to have confidence, because the produce must be forthcoming. The law would take it, if they did not give it; and if the law did not take it, he would. And he made this urgent appeal to them because if the people were "ready to discharge these duties," then he could assure them that all was well with their cause. The converse of this proposition he did not state in terms, that their cause was lost unless the people did send every man and all the food of the country to the army, but *his audience could hardly escape drawing this* conclusion for themselves.

This same conclusion is put forth even more clearly in the circular of the Chief Commissary of Florida, which our forces discovered on their recent movement from Jacksonville.

The Commissary does not call for men, indeed. That was not in his line. But provisions, beef, bacon, &c., he does call for, because BRAGG'S army was "in imminent danger" for want of it, the troops in Charleston were "in great extremity," and the "resources of food of both the Tennessee and Virginia armies are exhausted." He, too, was confident that the rebel "cause is safe in the hands of the army, provided we do our duty at home," but bolder than COBB, he declared that if every man did not give his entire surplus of bacon, beef, sugar and syrup to the Government, he "solemnly believed that the cause is hopeless."

This, be it noticed, was as long ago as November last. These earnest appeals must have produced some effect, or the result which was dreaded must have been produced before this. But the passing months have made no new supplies. If the "stock of bacon and beef for the armies of the Confederate States," was exhausted as long ago as the middle of October, so that they were compelled to "depend entirely upon what they gathered weekly," as Maj. MILLER, of Savannah, wrote, there is little chance that any stock could have been accumulated since—and the presence of GILLMORE'S troops in Florida, cutting off supplies from that State, will bring upon the rebels as much difficulty now as if he had gone there in November, and perhaps more.

Still four months have passed, and the rebel armies have been subsisted somehow. They may be subsisted four months more in the same way, and it would be most unsafe for us to allow these indications of the straits which have pressed upon them to make us less earnest in doing all that we can do. Let want of provisions and men straiten them as much as it may, we must rely for our victory not upon their want, but upon our abundance; not upon their weakness, but upon our strength.

What will be the Effect of War in Europe?

Misery loves company, no doubt, but there was something more than the fact which that old proverb expresses, in the feeling of almost satisfaction with which our people read the announcement that hostile guns had been fired in Europe, and that the cloud of war which had been threatening in that quarter had really burst. And yet, we have not become so heartless a people as to rejoice when our neighbor's house catches fire, merely because our own is burning. Rather have we learned in the three bitter years that we have passed through, to appreciate the evils *of war as we never felt them before. And* when we hear of four or five hundred brave men killed and wounded on the Eider, our hearts so instinctively think of the homes which have been made desolate, as if the fight were upon the Rapidan.

But no one can help thinking what will be the effect upon us of a war with Europe, and feeling that its effect upon our troubles can hardly be otherwise than beneficial to us. We have all of us watched Europe with no little anxiety. For the rebels alone we knew we were more than a match. We should not have shrunk if any European Power had thought best to range itself by their side; but we felt that if such an event took place, it would call for greater sacrifices and pain and loss than we have yet been compelled to endure. It is most natural, therefore, that any course of events in Europe which removes the possibility of the rebels receiving such aid, should be satisfactory to us. That any European Power should enter upon the war with us which active help of the rebels would inevitably bring on, is made far less probable by these being war at home in their own neighborhood; and not only is any active interference in favor of the rebels made more unlikely, but that undercurrent of influence, and those secret and underhand helps which the rebels have continually succeeded in securing from European sources, must be at once straitened, if not entirely dried up. The interests, the plans, the attention, in fine, of Europe, will be in a measure withdrawn from us, and we shall be left to go on undisturbed in our labor of putting down the rebellion and reëstablishing, upon a firmer basis than ever, the Government of the people for the people.

All these effects must follow a European war in greater or less degree. If it shall spread widely enough to draw England and France, or either of them, into it, its results will be more beneficial to us still. But will England be drawn into the fray? Equally good prophets differ widely on this question. *Punch*, who, after all, now and then expresses very accurately the sympathies of the English people, thinks she will, now that the Princess of Wales has given the nation an heir to the crown, for he says: "We previously felt it a duty to prevent King CHRISTIAN from being robbed by the Sausages, but now it is also a pleasure to aid him. The darling Princess having given the Queen a grandson, the Prince a son and the nation a pet, we are not going to let Schleswig be taken from her father." The world has not, nor has England, yet got beyond being influenced into a war by even such an event as that. And with this possibility in view, we should not be human if we did not feel some little satisfaction at the prospect of a speedy application at home of some of the recent arguments of British newspapers and members of Parliament; at thinking of the disgust with which the London *Times* would learn that some of our shipbuilders had, as soon as England was at war, commenced building vessels for the Emperor of China; at the thought of how English underwriters and English merchants and shipowners would feel to see the English flag driven from the sea by privateers as *ours has been*; and *at the probable change of tone on the part of English* diplomatists, and the possible reversal of the decision in the *Alexandra* case.

We do not say that all these results would follow. We have no doubt that our Government would, by every means in its power, strive to practice those principles of true neutrality which it has been urging upon the nations of Europe for the past three years. But whether we should all of us have that malicious pleasure of thus seeing the poisoned chalice commended to the lips of him who prepared it or not, the solid advantage of being left to ourselves to dispose of our family difficulty as we see fit, is sure to follow from any extensive European war. And though the rebels may talk, as HOWELL COBB did, about the hope of help from abroad being "a wild and visionary dream—a false delusion," yet a war in Europe which will make that dream still more visionary, will be felt by them as an additional blow, which will be hard for them to bear. What is a blow to them is a help to us. And so we watch with interest for news of the war in Europe.

Prussian Constitutionalism.

The most difficult of all things to reconcile are liberty and royalty. "Monarchy," says MAZZINI, "has succeeded nowhere save in England." But why has it succeeded in England? Because there a foreign dynasty was brought in, after the expulsion of the Stuarts, to fill the throne, which having no power in the country, and owing its dignity altogether to the favor of the nation, or of a faction, was content to barter its prerogatives for the honors and emoluments of the kingly office. Monarchy has, in fact, succeeded in England, because in England monarchy is no longer *itself*, but a *democracy*—a government of law, a government of the representatives of the people, not that of the individual, whether man or woman, who wears the crown. Various attempts have been made, in the present century, to establish English constitutionalism on the European Continent, but if we except the Netherlands, which have been ever free since they threw off the Spanish yoke, and the recently formed Kingdom of Italy, these attempts have everywhere proved partial or total failures. They have succeeded very imperfectly in the Peninsula; they have been utterly abortive in France; and, that they have fared no better in Prussia, let passing events proclaim.

This has sprung from that love of despotic authority which is rooted in the hearts of kings. The concession of constitutions to their subjects when the fires of revolution threatened to consume their sceptres, was, of course, an imperative duty, the performance of which could not with safety be declined or postponed. But those potentates had no idea of honestly discharging the responsibilities of their new position—of honestly abiding by the terms of the contract into which they had entered with their people; and the moment the danger was past, the charters of liberty were cast aside, and regarded as of no more validity than an old almanac. To parallels of this kind the Houses of Bourbon and Brandenburg have been especially prone. The dethronement of Louis Quatorze was, however, made simple sleeveless for their political delinquencies, but the turn of the posterity of the Great Fantasque is yet to come, and if it does not come quickly, the delay will certainly not be owing to any lack of provocation on the part of his present representative, who has again closed the Prussian Chambers—again trampled on the Prussian Constitution—again insulted the Prussian nation. The arbitrary act, though generally anticipated, was perpetrated suddenly, and took even the deputies by surprise. The report of the Finance Committee touching the vote of the Herrenhaus on the budget had just been read, and a resolution declaring that vote null and void adopted, when Count EULENBURG rose, and communicated a royal message which announced the immediate closing of the Diet. The warning was no sooner given than the blow was struck. On the very same day the usual Speech from the Throne was delivered at the White Hall, for the benefit of such members as chose to attend, and the oft-repeated ceremony was gone through. The sins of omission and commission which provoked the indignation and wore out the patience of his Prussian Majesty are carefully enumerated in the speech aforesaid. The late Lower Chamber had dared to persist in maintaining that defiant position which had led to the dissolution of former Chambers. It had presumed to reject the bill by which VON BISMARK and his master had sought to alter the constitution, and to legalize their despotic acts. It had declined to discuss the budget of 1863—had cut down the expenditure for 1864, and by refusing that loan which the Government needed to carry out their schemes in Schleswig it had manifested its lack of patriotism, and its indifference to the military reputation of Prussia.

Such are the high crimes and misdemeanors which have brought down on the obnoxious Chamber the vengeance of royalty, and caused once more the dispersion of the deputies. Yet there is not a single count in this elaborate indictment which would justify a jury in returning a verdict of guilty against the defunct representatives. Some of the acts charged are positively meritorious, and would entitle the accused in other States to public gratitude—all of them were within the province of the members, and are strictly legal. Was it not the duty of the Chamber to persist in defending its own privileges? Was it not the duty of the Chamber to shield the constitution from the treacherous assaults of ministers? And had not the Chamber a perfect right to reject the financial measures of the cabinet and to curb its extravagance, if of opinion that both were unnecessary and injurious?

The acts, which have roused the ire of his Prussian Majesty, and which he regards with such aversion, are, in fact obligatory on every representative body; and had the Lower Chamber shrunk from their performance, it would have been false to its constituents unworthy the confidence of the country. *It is evident, then, that it was for opposing* the aggressions of monarch and ministers, and for standing up in defence of the national liberties that the House of Representatives has been prematurely closed. Had its members been more courtly and less patriotic, it would have been borne with; but as they could be neither bribed nor bullied, it was guillotined. Such is constitutionalism in Prussia.

The Draft as a Practical Measure.

There is one thing in which the Enrollment Act is defective, and that is in not making the draft permanent and continuous, instead of occasional and desultory. It has left it to the discretion of the Executive to call out troops at such times and in such numbers as it deems necessary; but the tendency of every Administration is and will be always to avoid all resort to a draft as long as possible. It is, in many respects, a vexatious and always a heavy burden; and the Executive not unnaturally will always shrink as long as it can from the unpopularity which is sure to result from imposing it. We have had ample experience of this already. The consequence is that when the draft at last has to come, it is a tremendous draft that alarms the community, disturbs industry, and deals the labor market. Regiments are allowed to dwindle down to skeletons, and 1,000 men are needed to bring them up to their proper strength.

What Congress ought to have done was to have taken all the responsibility on itself, and left the Executive no discretion in the matter. It ought to have fixed the number of men to be kept in the field, and the minimum strength of each regiment, and then imposed on each district the duty of keeping its own troops up to the required number; of constant drafting, if necessary, as fast as the gaps were made, whether by discharges, casualties or desertions, and without any delay. In this way, none would have been called for by tens where they are now called for by the thousand—an enormous difference. It will be admitted, to the community which has to furnish them, is to render to furnish them in this way rather than all at once; just in the same degree that it is easier to pay money by installments than to pay the sum total. There can be nothing more wasteful and more exhausting than the plan we now pursue of raising large bands by one call, nothing more economical than the plan we now recommend, and it is the one which is adopted by Continental nations after long experience of the contrary plan. Not the least of its recommendations, too, is that it would ensure the presence in every regiment, at all times, of a majority of drilled soldiers, instead as now, in too many cases, of having a small remnant of veterans in an ocean of raw recruits.

There is still a remedy for the shortcomings of Congress, if the Administration will only do its duty firmly. It ought to decide at once how many men it needs, and keep up that number *till the war is at an end*, by incessant volunteering; or failing that, by drafting at short intervals, one every month.

The Danubian Principalities.

Among the questions which tend gradually to trouble and perplex Europe, that arising from the abnormal position of the Danubian Principalities, and the restless character of their Sovereign, is not the least knotty and prominent. It was one of those questions on which the Emperor NAPOLEON based his plan for a general congress, and it would seem as if his French Majesty and Prince COUZA were determined that it should remain still a bone of contention for the Great Powers to snarl over.

The ruler of France is fond of casting his ægis over second and third-rate potentates, and the Moldo-Wallachian Chief is one of the personages thus favored. How the consciousness of having so formidable a protector has evidently a very bad effect on the mind of this semi-barbarian, who, because of it, is perpetually getting into squabbles with his suzerain, the Sultan, or violating the rights of his own subjects—nay, he sometimes contrives to be at feud with both suzerain and subjects together, and such, according to recent intelligence from Constantinople, is the case at present.

The propriety of secularizing the possessions of the Greek convents in the Wallachio-Moldavian Provinces was recognized at the Conference of Paris; but it was also decided that, ere the carrying out of the measure, the Roumun Government and the monks should come to an understanding touching the amount of compensation to be paid to the latter, and that, if said parties could not come to an agreement, a commission of arbitration should settle the matter. It did not, however, suit the views of Prince COUZA to abide by this equitable arrangement. He preferred to play, in a small way, the part of England's Eighth Harry, and to take possession of the monastic lands by force—in accomplishing this arbitrary scheme, the most ruthless means were employed, even the egumens, or abbots, who presumed to resist, being cast into prison, and subjected to privations and hardships little short of actual torture. These outrageous proceedings caused great consternation, not only in the Principalities, but also among the Greek Christians of the East, many of whose religious establishments were principally supported by revenues derived from a certain class of these Moldo-Wallachian convents. On their behalf, therefore, an appeal was made to the Sultan, and he was called on to discharge the obligations to which he is bound by the Treaty of Paris, and to afford protection to the orthodox fraternities whom COUZA was despoiling. This summons roused the Government of the Porte from its habitual apathy, and it convoked a conference of the representatives of the guaranteeing Powers, in order to decide as to what ought to be done. The Ambassadors of England, Austria, Russia and Prussia were unanimously of *opinion that the Sultan should exert his au*thority to put a stop to the aggressions of his feudatory on the convents; but the French Ambassador, and of course the Italian Chargé, thought otherwise, and stood up stoutly for COUZA. Meantime intelligence was conveyed to the Moldo-Wallachian Prince touching the decision of the conference at Constantinople, and this determined him to bring matters to an issue forthwith. So, assembling his Chambers, he submitted to them a *projet de loi*, which passed without discussion, and which confiscates the entire property of the monks, allowing to each fraternity just so much compensation as renders the wrong the more grievous. The audacity of COUZA filled the Government of the Sultan with astonishment and indignation, and it immediately addressed a note to its contumacious vassal, informing him that his conduct was unlawful, and contrary to treaty engagements, and that his recent spoliation measure was null and void. This note, before being dispatched, was read and approved of by all the representatives of the Great Powers, save those of France and Italy—the former of whom endeavored, not only by argument, but even by intimidation, to prevent the transmission of the Turkish protest. The impertinence of the Gallic diplomat, however, merely served to rouse the spirit and to confirm the determination of the Porte, and the Ottoman protest is now at Bucharest, and with it protests to the same purpose from England, Austria, Russia and Prussia.

But hitherto those protests have had no effect. Prince COUZA takes the matter coolly—won't receive the unwelcome missives, or grant an interview to the legations, and is evidently disposed to disregard the remonstrances of the Powers, if his patron at the Tuileries will only assure him of support. Yet NAPOLEON had better beware. This Moldo-Wallachian squabble is, indeed, a paltry affair, but it is not more paltry than that squabble between the Greek and Latin churches in Jerusalem which led to the Crimean war.

ONE OF THE OLD HOSTAGES

A Report of Events at Kashing

1 am only a little scout, but papa says I must write to you. I am a boy of ten years. You know papa, but perhaps you don't, of course, know mamma. All of us in this city are very busy because the Imperials are trying to recapture it. They very badly want it, for it is a treaty port, and all sorts of things come to it from the interior. Papa says that the Taipings are very near, and that we shall be besieged in a week or two. Then we shall all starve to death, unless we can get out of the city. I am very glad of this, because I am tired of rice, and I should like to see a little fighting. I expect papa will be very busy, and will not have time to play with me, so I am writing to you instead. I am sure you will be interested to hear about the siege, and I will tell you all I can.

Papa says that the Imperials are encamped on the other side of the river, and that they have a great many guns. Papa says that they are not very good guns, but that they are very big ones, and that they throw shells which burst and kill a great many people. Papa says that the Taipings have no guns at all, but that they have a great many matchlocks, and that they are very good shots. Papa says that the Taipings are very brave men, and that they will fight very hard indeed before they let the Imperials take the city. Papa says that the Taipings have been fighting for a long time, and that they have taken many cities. Papa says that they are very fierce men, and that they have killed a great many people. Papa says that they have killed all the people in the cities that they have taken, because the people would not help them. Papa says that the Taipings have killed a great many Imperials, and that they have taken a great many guns from

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

They Finally Start on the 11th Inst.—Skirmishing Nearly Two Days Before Leaving Vicksburg.

Further Particulars.

Correspondence of the Chicago Evening Journal.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Friday, Feb. 12.

In my letter of the 3d inst., I stated that the cavalry Expedition of Gens. W. L. SMITH and GARRISON, was to leave its rendezvous east of this place on that evening. That was the plan and the expectation, and there is reason to fear that its failure to get off at that time may bring somewhat of confusion to SHERMAN'S arrangements, inasmuch as the cavalry is to take a prominent part in the general operations in which Sherman is engaged. The cavalry force, however, did not get off until last evening (Thursday). Gen. SMITH was at La Grange when they started, describes the cavalcade as a most imposing affair. The cause of the delay was the detention of a division that came down from above.

A more extensive, thoroughly equipped or effective army of mounted men has never been seen in this country. I do not understand the details of its organization, nor its exact numbers—these being facts that have purposely been kept secret, in order to keep the enemy in the dark as to its effectiveness. This much, however, I can state: The expedition consists of two grand divisions, one of which is commanded by Gen. SMITH, who is Gen. GRIERSON'S Chief of Cavalry, and a most thorough and capable officer, and the other by Gen. GARRISON, who so indisputably proved his ability as a cavalry leader while under Gen. GRANT last summer. These two divisions, I learn, are to move in separate columns, but to move in such a manner as to be able to form a junction at any point, and fall in cooperation. It took a southerly direction, toward Holly Springs, and will strike across the country, through Mississippi and into Alabama, where FORREST, the rebel cavalry chief, is said to have a force organized for effective purposes in connection with an army of the Eighth Reserved Rebel Corps. FORREST's cavalry is to operate on the line of the Mississippi and Atlantic Railroad. To cut off FORREST and rout or capture FORREST will probably be the first move on this military chess-board. SHERMAN and the cavalry acting in concert to that end. But it is needless to speculate. We will learn soon enough what will come of the active operations that Gen. GRANT has thus early inaugurated.

I have already informed you that these expeditions are not the beginning of the development of a grand plan that has been arranged by Gen. GRANT (after advice and consultation with Gen. HALLECK) for the Spring campaign in the Gulf States. This will soon be demonstrated by actual events. You will learn shortly that nothing in this grand division is not confined to the expeditions now moving in Mississippi. The Army of the Cumberland has a part to act, and a very important one, in this general scheme, and if that army is not already "pulling up stakes" south of Chattanooga, for a push southward, Atlanta-wards, I am sadly mistaken.

Your reporter with SHERMAN'S army sent me a more than by the last steamer up from Vicksburgh, namely: "Gunboats gone up the Yazoo—army marching on—whipped rebels in several skirmishes—all right—will be in Jackson to-night." This is dated the 4th. Doubtless SHERMAN has ere this full possession of Jackson, and is moving on. It will be difficult to get records of these movements in the future from this direction. The line of communication will soon be established via Nashville. The military authorities, especially SHERMAN, are provokingly suspicious of newspaper reporters, and are unwilling to let them know a word about what is going to be done, and they give a report nothing except what has been done or is doing. You will, I trust, soon hear from your reporter in Nashville. In the meantime I will continue to keep you posted from this direction as far as possible and as promptly as usual. L.

A Twenty-Inch Gun.

CASTING AT THE FORT PITT FOUNDRY.

From the Pittsburgh Chronicle, Feb. 12.

One of the most important events in the history of the rebellion, and which inaugurates a new era in the manufacture of heavy guns, took place on Thursday, between 11 and 12 o'clock, at the Fort Pitt Works. A gun, with calibre of 20 inches diameter, was cast on the Rodman principle, in some 22 minutes from the time of tapping the furnaces. The arrangements for casting this mammoth piece of ordnance were most perfect, and during its process everything worked like clock-work. The amount of metal used for this huge gun was 65 tons, or 130,000 pounds. The metal was melted in three furnaces, which were charged at 5 o'clock in the morning. At twenty minutes past twelve, everything being in readiness, the three furnaces were simultaneously tapped, and the molten metal was conveyed by means of three conductors to a large reservoir close to the mold. The mold was set perpendicularly to the depth of 15 feet. It was lowered into a large chasm suspended from two large cranes of a lifting capacity of forty tons each, and worked by steam. As soon as the reservoir was sufficiently charged, the metal flowed from it into the mold, and in twenty-two minutes from the time of tapping the furnaces, the mold was filled to within a few inches of the top. As the metal settled, the mold was filled by the workmen with metal from furnaces held in reserve in case of accident. The casting was perfected without the slightest confusion, the whole being done under the immediate superintendence of Mr. JOSEPH KAYE, foreman of the works.

We are indebted to Col. JOSEPH M. SHARP for the following statistics, which will give our readers a better idea of the magnitude of the casting:

Weight of gun in rough	166,000 lbs.
Weight when finished	115,000 lbs.
Total length, when finished	20 ft. 6 in.
Length of bore	17 ft. 6 in.
Maximum diameter	5 ft. 2 in.
Minimum diameter	3 ft. 10 in.

The gun, it is estimated, will use a spherical shot of half a ton weight, and a shell of 750 pounds. If the gun was rifled, it is thought it would throw a solid shot of one ton in weight. The amount of powder to be used in charging the gun is estimated from 60 to 100 pounds. This gun is said to be the largest in the world, and to Pittsburgh belongs the honor of adding such a heavy piece of ordnance to the science of war.

The casting of the gun, as we before remarked, was on the hollow core principle, invented by Major REMAIN, United States Army. The core consists of an iron cylinder, half an inch in thickness, through which a stream of water is kept continuously running during the process of casting. This cylinder is wrapped with rope, which is covered by sand, and outside of this for a short distance from the mouth of the mould, is a sheet-iron cylinder. During the casting the water discharged from the core indicated a temperature of from forty to forty-two degrees. The gun will remain in the pit undergoing the cooling process some ten days or two weeks, after which it will be hauled out by means of the large crane referred to, and removed on a railway truck to the finishing department of the works, where it will be planed and finished.

It is not yet known what disposition will be made of the gun when completed, but it is thought not improbable that it will be placed in some of the defences of New-York harbor. If so, we would not like to insure the safety of the *Black Prince, Warrior, Royal Oak* or *La Gloire*, should they attempt an entrance of the harbor with warlike intent. One shot from this monster would crush such vessels to pieces.

Although the day fixed for the casting was necessarily kept quiet, a large number of ladies and distinguished military and scientific persons were present, by invitation of Mr. KAYE. Among the latter we noticed the following gentlemen: Maj. DYER, of the Ordnance Department; Maj. REMAIN, the inventor of the principle upon which the gun was cast; Capt. E. AUBUCH, Assistant Chief of Bureau of the Ordnance Department of the Navy; Capt. J. M. BERRIAN, Inspector of Ordnance United States Navy; Capt. BARNETT, Chief Inspector of Ordnance; Capt. ENOS, Chief of Ordnance on Gen. MEADE'S Staff; Capt. HAINS, Chief of Ordnance on Gen. PLEASANTON'S Staff; Prof. BARNES, of the Western University, and others. Two distinguished representatives from abroad also witnessed the process of the casting—Marquis DE RAGGENOW, of the Italian army, and Capt. GOODENOUGH, of the English Navy. All these gentlemen were highly pleased with the great success of this experiment, and some more so than the last two named.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Rates at the Stock Exchange.....FEB. 20, 1864.

$20,000 U. S. 6s '81 Cp.....110¾
$2,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20s, Cp.....105
5,000 Cp. 6s, 10-40s, Cp.....102¾
7,000 " do.....102 3/8
5,000 U. S. 7-30s.....99¾
$6,000 do.....99¾
10,000 Mo. War Loan.....80
15,000 do.....80¼
5,000 Reg. 6s, '81.....110
5,000 do.....110
5,000 do.....110
5,000 do.....110
5,000 N. C. Bonds.....60
1,000 do.....60
1,000 do.....60
1,000 do

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY IN SEVENTH-AVENUE.

A Woman Brutally Murdered by her Husband—Arrest of the Murderer—Testimony on the Coroner's Inquest, &c.

One of the most horrible murders that has for a long time past occurred in this City, was committed about 11 o'clock, on Friday night, at No. 320 Seventh-avenue. A wife was murdered by her husband, and so far as the investigation of the case has proceeded, it would seem that it was a most cold-blooded and unprovoked act. The scene in the drama are EDWARD HUNTER and his wife ELIZABETH; the former about 47 years of age, a native of England; the latter aged 44 years, and reported to have been born in Albany, this State. For some time past the two have not been living on good terms, and it appears from the testimony which we publish below, that the wife left her husband some time ago, and has since steadily refused to cohabit with him on the ground of ill-treatment which it is alleged was practiced by him to such an extent that her life became endangered. On Friday evening some of the members of the family, who reside with the latter in Seventh-avenue, wishing to go to the theatre, asked for the mother, who was living by herself in Tenth-street, to go to No. 320 and take charge of an infant during the evening. The wife and mother went to the house of her husband, and while all the family, except a lad 11 years of age, were absent at the theatre, the murder was committed. The deed was performed with a hatchet, the blade of which was sunk deep into the brains of the poor woman. The deceased is said, by those who knew her best, to have been a most amiable and inoffensive woman. The husband was arrested soon after the deed was committed.

Coroner RANKIN, yesterday, held an inquest on the body of the murdered wife at the residence of the husband in Seventh-avenue, when the following testimony in the case was given:

George E. Hunter testified: I live at No. 139 Seventh-avenue; I am a son of the deceased *Elizabeth Hunter*; I am 15 years of age, and under the control of the said deceased; I saw her last yesterday at the time after my father came from his work; he is a carman; he came in at about ten minutes past 6 o'clock P. M.; soon after he came in we all had our suppers, and father sent me down stairs to get the key of the stable, which was on the mantle-piece; my father and mother were up stairs in my brother's room at that time, and as a portion of the family were going to the theatre, we all took our supper in my brother's room; I was gone about five minutes for the key; when I returned my mother was washing the dishes at the sink, and my father was sitting at the stove holding his little grandchild; they were talking about what my father had said about my mother; I understood that she consented to him of saying bad things about her; my mother then left her dishes and went into the room on account of a difficulty with my father, and she had resided with my grandmother, at No. 68 West Tenth-street; in the sequence of my mother, she came up to stay with the children last evening while the family went to the theatre; after my brother and the ladies went to the theatre, my father went down to the stable; I had gone down before him; he took care of the horses; when he went out he told mother he would be in again in a few minutes; soon after he went my mother got the baby to sleep, and I laid down on the floor to sleep; the last I saw of my mother before going to sleep she was sitting in the rocking-chair reading, with the baby in her arms; up to the time I went to sleep I no angry conversation between my father and mother; he complained that he had some hard things against her; about 10 o'clock in the evening I awoke and then saw my father hitting my mother with something. When I first woke up I think I said, "Oh, father," my mother was on the floor, near my feet, and father was over her; mother did not speak. I sprang up and father went out without saying a word; I looked at my mother and saw her open her mouth, but as she did not speak I thought she was hurt and ran to the next room and called Henrietta Teller; Henrietta came to the door, and I went in and took hold of my mother and tried to get her up; I then saw a large mass of blood on the floor; at that time I did not notice any wounds; my mother's mouth moved a little when I went to her, as though she was trying to speak; I then ran to the stable for the neighbor; met my brother and my father; he asked me where I was going; I said to him, my mother is dying, and I am going after somebody; father then gave me his pocket-book, but took it back again to count the money, and then told me to go in; I watched my father as he left me and saw him go into a porter-house on the corner; I then ran to a druggist; he said he could do nothing for me but would give me a line to a doctor; but I was frightened and could go no further; as I went out of the drug-store I met Geo. Haffner; I told him that my mother was dying; I then ran home, but when going up the steps father called to me from the stable door, and gave me a pocket-book; several neighbors came into our house soon after; about this time a doctor came; one of the policemen said he thought my mother was killed with a hatchet; soon after this my father took me aside and said to me, "tell them that you don't know anything about the deceased, or I will kill you;" I then went to bed; when I saw father strike mother I had just woke up; I cannot say certainly what he had in his hand when he struck mother, but I think it was a boot; my father was in the habit of drinking some liquor; when he drank I could tell by his appearance; he was not in liquor last evening.

Joseph O. Conner testified—I am a policeman and roundsman, attached to the Twenty-ninth Precinct; at about 11¼ o'clock on Friday night I was informed at the Station-house that there was a woman dead at No. 320 Seventh-avenue; I went there with Officer Stevenson of the same Precinct, and there we found the deceased lying on the floor in her blood; I examined the wounds and was convinced that they were inflicted with a hatchet; I then asked the son George if her father owned a hatchet; just then the prisoner came in; George said there were two hatchets; I searched the house for hatchets, but found none; I then asked the prisoner, Hunter, if he knew how the murder occurred; he replied he did not; I then asked him if he knew where the hatchets were; he said no; in company with the prisoner I procured a candle, and we made a search in the woodshed; there we found one hatchet; just as we were leaving the house, the prisoner whispered to his son George, but I could not hear what he said; I made a diligent search for the other hatchet, but could not find it; I then took the prisoner to the station-house; the prisoner was very cool and collected at the time.

Thomas W. Hunter testified that he resided at No. 320 Seventh-avenue—I am a son of deceased Elizabeth Hunter; I was not at home at the time of my mother's death; I was at the theatre with my wife, my brother and Mr. and Mrs. Harris; my mother, the deceased, was asked to come up from her residence in Tenth-street, to take care of my child during our absence at the theatre; she did so, and was there when we left; we went away at 6¼ o'clock to the theatre, and returned at about 11¼ o'clock; we found our mother dead; she was lying on the floor in her blood; for the past three or four years my father and the deceased have had difficulty; about two years ago my mother left my father on account of his unkindness to her, and she was then away about one week; owing to the persuasion of my brother and myself, she returned; about six months ago she left him again, and never lived with him afterward; several times he sent for her, and also came and saw him once; he chase a proposition to her that if she would return and live with him he would give her half of his property; she replied the property was no inducement unless he had reformed in his language and manners toward her since they parted. For the past few years he has accused deceased of immoral conduct with other men, both before and after their marriage; his language to her while they lived together was very abusive; I frequently left my home to avoid hearing the abusive and vulgar language which my father used toward deceased; my mother was one of the most moral and inoffensive women in the world.

The wife of the last witness, and also several other members of the family, fully corroborate the testimony of the above witness.

E. D. Renner, M.D., testified that he had made an autopsy on the body of Mrs. Hunter, the deceased; I find the cause of death to be an extensive comminuted fracture of the skull, with a large amount of hemorrhage; the bones of the face were also fractured; the injury seems to have been inflicted with a blunt instrument, breaking through the walls of the left parietal and frontal bones on the left side, over a space extending between the eye and ear, for five inches, up and backward, and four inches in breadth; the whole wall of the cavern in this space was broken into many fragments, and that portion of the brain is so mutilated as to leave the brain exposed; there were no bruises on the person, except those mentioned.

At the conclusion of the testimony the Jury rendered the following verdict: "We find that the deceased, Mrs. ELIZABETH HUNTER, came to her death by injuries at the hands of her husband, EDWARD HUNTER, Feb. 19, 1864."

Coroner RANKIN then propounded the usual questions to the prisoner, in answer to which he said that his name was EDWARD HUNTER, 47 years of age, a native of England, and resided at No. 320 Seventh-avenue, and was by occupation a carman. To the charge of murder preferred against him, he said: "I done it; she aggravated me to do it; she told me she left me to go with others, that she liked better than she did me; she put up the children against me in every instance, to irritate me; two yearsago she left me and then she came back and said she would be a mother to the children, but would not be a wife to me. About last New Year's she came back and took breakfast with me, and told me if I would make over half of the property to her, she would come back and not go any more; she got my daughter MARY to swear that I attempted to commit an outrage on the daughter."

The Coroner then committed the accused to the Tombs to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Another Wife Murder.

ARREST OF THE ACCUSED HUSBAND.

Late yesterday afternoon, the body of a woman was found by officers FOWLER and HOLBROOK, of the Eighth Precinct, in the rear room of the basement No. 61 Grand-street. The body showed evident marks of violence, and the officers therefore took charge of it—conveyed it to the Station House, and after a selinquent search, succeeded in arresting the husband of the deceased on the charge of murder.

Coroner WILDEY held an Inquest on the body last evening at the Eighth Precinct Station-house when the following facts were disclosed: The name of the deceased is MARY ANN JAMES, for some time past she has sustained the relation of wife to Mr. THOMAS MCKELL, who kept a lagerbier saloon at No. 61 Grand-street; a quarrel took place between them during Friday night, in the rear basement where they lived, when MCKELL beat her with a club, or some other blunt weapon, on her head, face, arms, had body, to such a degree that she died soon after. The jury rendered a verdict that "deceased died from hemorrhage, the result of violence at the hands of THOMAS MCKELL." He was thereupon committed to the Tombs to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Mysterious Death of a Lady.

PAINFUL INCIDENTS—THE LETTER.

On the evening of Sunday, Jan. 31, a lady of fine personal appearance, about 35 years of age, and evidently of education and refinement, arrived in this City from Boston, stopping at the Dupont House, Hudson and Leight streets. A room was assigned her; she said she expected, by appointment, a call from a physician, and during the evening one called upon her, remaining for about an hour. On her arrival at the hotel she appeared to be in perfect health; in the morning she was found to be alarmingly ill. It was concluded to send her to Bellevue Hospital. She earnestly protested against this, but was placed in a carriage, and a female sent with her. On the way she was in great agony, seeming hardly able to live during the ride. After being received at the hospital she grew worse; she complained much to a lady who took an interest in her, of being turned out of the otel and sent to the hospital. She stated that she expected a letter from Boston with a remittance, giving her name *as MRS. ANN R. KING; that she was married her husband was at the war, and that a person in Boston*, whose name she did not divulge, was the cause of her troubles, and he had sent her to New-York for medical advice. She dictated a letter to that person, which was only partially completed in consequence of her increasing illness. At her request the lady who had called on her, to whom she had confided as above, called on the following Thursday at the Post-office for the expected Boston letter; she received it, and next day returned to the hospital, but found that Mrs. KING had died in the morning. She was buried in Potter's Field.

On the following Monday, a gentleman came on from Boston and called at the Dupont House, making inquiry for deceased; he was directed to the hospital and evinced much surprise on learning of the death; stating that the lady was respectably connected, and had left charge of the affairs of her husband during the latter's absence in the army. He made special inquiry as to what deceased had said during her illness, and, promising to remove the body to Boston, left, since which time, it is stated, nothing has been heard of him.

A trunk containing a few articles of apparel and a few books of poems, was taken possession of by the Doctor who called on deceased at the Dupont House, although the dying woman had given it to the lady who ministered to her.

The following is a copy of the letter addressed to her from Boston, superscribed "MRS. ANN R. KING"

BOSTON, Jan. 28, 1864.

DEAR FRO: Your letter is before me, just received. I did not get your Saturday note in season to answer you at the time, as to what you have written.

You write that you "feel as if every friend on earth had forsaken you." Is it not rather true that you have forsaken every friend, rather than incur the risk of having your condition known? I am very sorry you feel so badly, and hope earnestly your troubles will soon be over, and something will turn up favorable.

I regret that my language should have seemed harsh to you, but I felt no unkindness; it was only regret that you were unwilling to act as I felt would be best for you, though I perfectly understand your motives, and respect your desire to escape disclosure.

I certainly feel deeply for you, and regret that I cannot see you quickly through your troubles.

I have never said anything to you about money, lest I should injure your feelings, as I know very well you would not accept it from me. But now you certainly will be willing to allow me to help you, so long as you are unable to do anything for yourself.

If you will call me here to direct to you, so that you will be sure to receive it, when boarding or otherwise, I will send to you at once. *Under no circumstances* mention my name to a living soul, as it would be of no benefit to you and might ruin me. Burn this letter as soon as read. FEG ——.

Court of General Sessions—Charles Walters Sentenced to be Hanged in April Next.

Before Judge Russell.

JOHN GORDON pleaded guilty to forgery in the fourth degree, and His Honor suspended judgment in his case.

MARGARET GREEEN, convicted of assault and battery, was brought up. Prisoner is a colored girl, and was convicted of stabbing a white boy with a knife.

His Honor said that it was too much the practice to use the knife, but the jury who tried her had recommended her to mercy, and the judgment of the Court would be suspended.

PAULINE WALSON, *alias* Pauline Elkin, who was convicted of stealing $170 from a returned veteran, was brought up for sentence. Prisoner looked like a veteran in her line, and was sent to the State Prison for two years.

SARAH ROACH, convicted of grand larceny, was sentenced to be confined in the State Prison for two years. On hearing her sentence, prisoner broke out into loud protestations of her innocence, and curses upon the jury that convicted her.

ELIZA HAWKS pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny; was sentenced to the Penitentiary for six months.

MARY WILSON, convicted of petit larceny, was discharged, judgment being suspended.

MARY WALKER pleaded guilty of an assault and battery; was discharged, judgment being suspended.

JAMES MCKENNA pleaded guilty of forgery in the fourth degree, and was sent to the penitentiary for one year.

CHARLES H. WALTERS, convicted of murder, was brought up for sentence. Judge RUSSELL said: "WALTERS, you have been tried and convicted of taking the life of one NANCY VINCENT, who was your mistress. The sentence of the court is, that you be taken to the place from whence you came, and there be incarcerated until the 15th day of April, 1864, and then be taken out and hanged until you are dead; and may the Lord have mercy on your soul." Ex-Judge STUART, counsel for prisoner WALTERS, will take his case to the Supreme Court, on a writ of error.

Metropolitan Fair.

To the Patriotic Ladies of New-York and vicinity:

Many ladies are skilled in the beautiful arts of manufacturing wax flowers, preparing autumn leaves, pressed flowers, seaweeds, mosses, cone and burr-work, shell and bead-work, etc.

Specimens of their taste and genius are most earnestly requested for the approaching Metropolitan Fair.

It is hoped, and believed, that such and all so gifted will gladly contribute their handiwork, which, while gracing and adorning the fair, will prove the means of procuring comfort and happiness to many a suffering soldier.

Those who have heretofore given pleasure to their friends and had a pastime in these accomplishments, may now combine, in the production of these rare ornaments, amusement and charity. It is requested that the donor's name and valuation of the gifts may be affixed to each article.

Contributions may be left at No. 2 Great Jones-street, or at No. 129 East Thirty-fourth-street.

MRS. SAMUEL G. COURTNEY,
Committee on Wax Flowers, etc., etc.

The Firemen and the Metropolitan Fair.

The Executive Committee of the New-York Fire Department held a meeting on Thursday evening last, and the report then presented was very satisfactory. Mr. JAMES L. MILLER, the Chairman of the committee, and one of the best working members, has used great exertions for the advancement of this matter, and, aided as he is by great numbers of the exempts, influential merchants, who in their younger days were "active," will doubtless make it an entire success. An office has been opened at No. 794 Broadway, under charge of Assistant-Engineer ALLEN, for the reception of such articles as may be contributed by the citizens. A number have already been received, and, from present appearances, enough will be received to make the space alloted the New-York Fire Department one of the most attractive in the *Fair*. A large number of *merchants who are not* members, but who are friends of the department, have also declared their intention to assist them. The department at White Plains have nobly responded to the call, and it is *anticipated* that nearly all the neighboring cities will do the same. At Yorkville the ministers of the various churches, called the attention of their congregations to the matter, and asked of them their cooperation. Over seventy companies have reported to the committee that they are "at work," and others who have not yet reported, are known to be also doing their best.

The Executive Committee have issued a circular to the foremen of each company urging him to do his utmost for the benefit of the fair, and recommending that the houses of their various companies be kept open for the reception of articles in each house, and exhibition of such articles as may be contributed. The exertions of the members of the New-York Volunteer Fire Department proves the interest they take in this great work, and the result will doubtless be that they are no idle sachem to none.

The Fair and the Wholesale Dry Goods Merchants.

NEW-YORK, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1864.

To the Wholesale Dry Goods Merchants of New-York:

The undersigned have been appointed a Committee to represent the Wholesale Dry Goods Merchants in the Metropolitan Fair, to commence in this City on the 30th of March next. It will be held under the management of the ladies of the City, who will be aided by an Advisory Committee of Gentlemen. The object is to supply funds to the United States Sanitary Commission.

The services of this commission have been recognized throughout the entire army as in the highest degree beneficial. Every battle-field has been the witness of their noble, merciful and successful labors—imparting to the sick and wounded, help, comfort and hope, and to those in arms, confidence and courage. All who are enabled to pursue their avocations in camp and safety at home, cannot do less than provide for the sufferings of the brave soldiers who expose themselves to sickness, wounds and death, to maintain the unity and promote the welfare of their country.

Contributions for this purpose are requested in money or merchandise. If in money, it may be sent to either of the committee; if in merchandise, to the receiving depot, No. 2 Great Jones-street.

The magnitude of the wholesale dry goods interest, comprising the domestic and foreign commission houses, importers and jobbers, calls for a corresponding contribution to this object of benevolence and duty, such as will not only compare favorably with the results of fairs held successfully in other places, and with the contributions of other interests in the City, but also be esteemed worthy of the liberality and patriotism of the Commercial Metropolis of the country.

Committee.—Alexander T. Stewart, Edward A. Jaffray, Henry F. Spaulding, George Bliss, Adolph Iselin, William H. Lee, Gustavus Kutter, William G. Lambert, John M. Davies, James M. Constable, Theron R. Butler, Charles H. Ladington, Charles L. Anthony, William A. Haines.

LEVI P. MORTON, Chairman.
RAHUN SULLIVAN, Secretary.
W. G. LAMBERT, Treasurer.

The Sanitary Fair and Raffling.

It is stated by those in authority that the managers of the Metropolitan Fair, in aid of the Sanitary Commission, did not conclude to relinquish their idea of raffling in deference to the protest of the clergymen, but out of respect for the Sanitary Commission, who objected upon a purely technical ground.

Chief Justice Hall, of Colorado.

RECEPTION TO HIM BY CITIZENS OF THE TERRITORY.

A large number of prominent citizens of Colorado are in the City, and they took advantage of the fact to extend to Hon. B. F. HALL late Chief Justice of the Territory, who also happened to be in the City, the compliment of a reception last evening at the St. Nicholas Hotel. The Chief Justice, some months since, having organized the legal machinery of the Territory, resigned, and returned to his home in Auburn, N. Y. He has been tendered the Consulship at Valparaiso. The citizens of Colorado are anxious to have him with them again, and the reunion of last evening gave pleasant evidence of their appreciation of him. The President of the meeting, W. S. ROCKWELL, Esq., appointed Gov. PATTERSON, Col. HAYES and Col. ROBINSON a committee to wait upon Justice HALL and escort him to the parlor where they were assembled. Upon entering, he was introduced by the President and welcomed as follows: "Judge, a few of your old Colorado friends have gotten up this social gathering to show the respect so eminently due their Chief-Justice. You came to our country when we were without law, and almost without the semblance of it; out of chaos you created order, and since that time we have prospered even beyond the expectations of our most sanguine friends. We wish, Sir, to express our thanks for what you have done, and wish that you will be with us here to-night, and in social chat in a social old-fashioned Western way." Justice HALL evidently much moved at these manifestations of regard, in reply said: "Mr. ROCKWELL and gentlemen, I regret that I am unable to express to you in suitable language an acknowledgment for this honor, superadded as it is to numberless kindnesses and generous acts afforded me while in your territory. When I first entered your territory in 1861 evidences of a discordant element were plainly visible, but under the influence exerted by yourselves and the terretorial officers, order was restored, disloyalty melted away, and those who could not remain peaceably among us, sought residence elsewhere. The Executive Department was soon in action, the Legislature set in motion, and with the cooperation of other gentleman, I was enabled to establish a judiciary which tended to bring the Territory to judicial order. I have fallen deeply in love with the great works of your country, its mines, its mountain and plains, and its mineral waters, and just before I left, saw the last great marvel, a crop of wheat which yielded 175 bushels. I noticed, however, one thing (long that was wanted, and that was a schoolmaster. I also thought the Government criminal in not establishing a mineral department and placing at its head some of the most scientific men of the country. [Applause.] I represented this matter to the President, and he referred me to the Secretary of the Interior, who asked me if the people would stand being taxed. I answered no. That the people were doing more now for the Government than the Government was doing for them, and that if Secretary CHASE wanted to do well, he would establish a mineral bureau at Colorado, which would greatly help him to redeem his greenbacks. (Laughter and applause.) The Judge continued for some moments, and his remarks were listened to with great attention. Speeches were then made by Wm. CRANDELL LEWIS, Gen. GILPIN, the first Governor of the Territory, and others, after which Gov. PATTERSON called the attention of the gentlemen to a very sage remark, said to have been made by the Governor of North Carolina to the Governor of South Carolina, and in obedience to its instructions, an interview was had, wine and lunch produced, and a general chat enjoyed.

Among the distinguished gentlemen present were Judge Bright Smith, who acted as Secretary, and made an excellent speech which was heartily enjoyed, Judge W. R. Goraline, Hon. Jos. E. Kenyon, J. F. Field, Dr. O. D. Case, Jos. W. Holman, Maj. Schaefer, Jos. S. Langley, Frank Dalton, G. H. Wilcox, C. P. Sykes, L. R. Butler, and a number of others.

Scientific.

POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday evening, Feb. 18, S. D. TILLMAN presiding, Prof. BENJ. GARVEY, Secretary.

A water ram was presented to the association, *which was said to possess important advantages.* The usual summary of the Chairman on scientific news was read. The paper upon the *Influence of the Moon upon Earthquakes*, as published in *Silliman's Journal of Science and Art*, was ably discussed. A brief paper upon the improvements recently made in cast-steel, called forth remarks from Mr. BARKLEY, who desired information on the new Wyandot Works, which it is said is now engaged in making steel upon the Bessemer process.

Mr. DIXON spoke of an alloy of the Franklinite ore as being peculiarly adapted for car-wheels.

Mr. WIARD had found that 10 parts of Franklinite to 100 of No. 1 Springfield ore gave a metal the tensile strength of which was understood to be 36,000 pounds.

After a few remarks by the Chairman, on thallium alum, he gave the views of Professor BAGNE, of Florence, on direct and diffused light, which was followed by Professor EVERET reading an extract from *Dingley's Polytechnic Journal*, of Germany, on the discoveries made by Dr. PASSELEZ, of this association, on a new method of improving India rubber, and passing it, by his process, in a few moments, into vulcanized rubber. It is now successfully done at Beverly, Mass.

The regular subject, compressed air as a motive power, was then taken up.

Mr. ROOT stated, that in using steam power, that a great part of the power was lost in the friction of shafting, belting, &c.; and that small engines with compressed air as a motor could be employed at a great saving; and that the air could be compressed and conveyed to different places, and power could thereby be furnished at an extremely low price. He spoke of the manner in which it was done in England, and saw no reason why it should not be successful in this City. He stated, that air compressed to one-fifth its volume is heated enough to ignite any tinder. It is, he stated, heated to seventy-five degrees; while compressed to one-half its volume, is increased forty or fifty degrees.

He then explained a device for employing *compressed air with steam in an engine of his invention.* The air being employed to take up the heat given out by the steam in condensing. This invention called *forth remarks from the* Chairman, Dr. PASSELEZ, Messrs. GARVEY, WIARD, ROSETTER and others—the general tenor of the remarks being adverse to the invention.

At the request of the Chairman, the Secretary read a paper from the London *Journal of Science and Art* on atmospheric air as a secondary motor, which described fully the "Pneumatic Package Delivery Company's" apparatus now on exhibition in London.

In the debate which followed, the conclusion was arrived at that compressed air cannot be advantageously employed to convey power to long distances owing to *first*, loss of heat in compression; *second*, leakage in the pipes; *third*, friction of the air; *fourth*, inertia of the air; and that for these reasons suction is preferred when power is to be conveyed to any distance.

Mr. ROOT read a brief paper on the use of compressed air as a means of ventilating and of warming dwellings. This paper was briefly discussed, when the new system to warm and ventilate was laid on the table for consideration on Thursday evening next, after which the association adjourned.

Invalid Corps.

The following order has been received at Gen. DIX'S Headquarters. The object of the order is to make the Invalid Corps what it was originally intended to be—a corps of honor, and not a refuge for shirks or improper persons:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1864.

SIR: The following instructions from the Secretary of War are furnished for your information and guidance:

Officers signing the discharge papers of enlisted men, who are discharged on surgeons' certificates of disability, will note on the back of the discharge where the conduct of the man has not been meritorious, as required by General Order No. 212, of 1863, for admission into the Invalid Corps, that he is not a *proper person for the Invalid Corps.*

I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
EMIL. BRECK, Assist. Adj.-Gen.

GENERAL CITY NEWS.

ANOTHER BANQUET AT THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL.—A costly and elegant entertainment was given on last Friday evening at the Metropolitan Hotel by Col. H. G. ALLEN, the owner of the patent of ALLEN & BAIRD'S breech-loading gun, to the numerous operatives in the employ of Messrs. ROBINSON & CHAMBERLAIN, the manufacturers of the arm. About forty persons sat down to a sumptuous feast, and, after partaking of the substantials, there was a genial flow of champagne, speeches and story-telling. Remarks of an appropriate character were made by Col. ALLEN, Messrs. E. ROBINSON and E. CHAMBERLAIN, Col. HAYES, who crossed the Rocky Mountains with Gen. FREMONT, HORATIO F. AVERILL, Esq., of the New-York Bar, Col LEE, a cousin of Gen. R. E. LEE, of the rebel army, and others. We have rarely seen so much real enjoyment among a party of gentlemen. The official reports of the "Allen breech-loading rifle," speak of it as something really remarkable. One hundred and forty-eight rounds were fired at the rate of ten rounds in sixty-two seconds, without the slightest heating of the arm, and it is understood that the manufacturers are unable to supply the great demand for this new invention of firearm.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE SECOND ARMY CORPS.—The committee appointed by the merchants of the Produce Exchange, at the *meeting held Feb. 16th, inst., are actively engaged in* the collection of subscriptions to the premium fund for the Second Army Corps. They earnestly request all such merchants as desire to aid the country's cause by contributing to the fund for filling up the New-York City regiments of the Second Corps, to send in their donations promptly to either of the committee, without waiting to be called upon personally. The earlier that the entire fund is made available for the purpose for which it is being raised, the more serviceable it will be to the cause. The Produce Exchange Committee consists of Messrs. Josiah M. Fiske, No. 10 South-street; Edward Crenshaw, No. 39 Front-street; Henry W. Smith, No. 17 South-street; George D. Cragin, No. 259 West Twelfth-street; Alfred R. Hoyt, No. 19 South-street.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.—The Seventy-fifth New-York Regiment which arrived, last Friday morning, on the steamship *Continental* from New-Orleans, departed yesterday for Auburn in this State, where the regiment was organized. The men, three hundred in number, have all reënlisted, and will enter the service again, after the expiration of their thirty days' furlough, under their old commander, Col. MESERVE. This regiment has seen much service, having been in all the campaigns in Louisiana under command of Gens. BANKS and BANKS. The steamship *Arago* which arrived yesterday from New-Orleans, brought a portion of the Fourteenth Maine, Fourth Massachusetts and a small number of the First Maine Battery. The men have reënlisted and are home to enjoy a furlough of thirty days. Soon after their arrival they were furnished transportation on the Fall River line, and left in the afternoon for Boston.

TRIAL OF FIRE ENGINES.—On Monday next there will be a trial of engines, between Exempt Engine Company No. 1, of Tompkinsville, S. I., and Protection Engine Company No. 7, of Stapleton, for a purse of $600. The engines to be at Riley's Pole in West Broadway, at 12 o'clock precisely, to be allowed thirty minutes for preparation, and thirty minutes for trial; they are both third-class engines, piano style: No. 1 manufactured by SICKLES, and No. 7 by SIKES. Several companies will be present from Williamsburgh, to try their engines after the match is finished, and from the interest taken in the matter by firemen generally, it will doubtless be a very extensive affair.

SECOND DURYEE ZOUAVES.—These Zouaves are recruiting their battalion to a full regiment. Maj. FELIX AGNUS, formerly in the old Fifth New-York Duryee Zouaves, is in charge of the recruiting depot at No. 654 Broadway. The regiment has distinguished itself at Port Hudson and in the various engagements around New-Orleans. The officers are mostly from the First Zouaves, and enjoy a high reputation for discipline and courage. All the promotions and appointments are made from the ranks, and the inducements to join the regiment are great. But a few more men are needed to fill its compliment.

EXHIBITION OF THE COOPER UNION LITERARY CLASS.—The first annual exhibition of the Literary Class of the Cooper Union was given last evening, in the large hall of the Institute, before an appreciative audience. The programme, consisting principally of orations and music, was well selected and rendered to the satisfaction of all. Considerable praise is due Prof. J. E. FROTHINGHAM for the admirable training the class has received under his instruction.

NINTH ARMY CORPS.—Efforts are being made to fill the regiments constituting the Ninth Army Corps, under command of Gen. BURNSIDE, as rapidly as possible. To accomplish this object so far as the Forty-sixth and Fifty-first (both veteran regiments,) are concerned, a committee has been appointed, who have established their headquarters at No. 208 Broadway, where recruits are received and the highest bounties paid.

QUICK PASSAGE.—The British packet-ship *Minnehaha*, Capt. MCGRATH, of G. & J. KNOX & Co's. Londonderry and New-York passenger line, which sailed hence on the 17th January, arrived at Londonderry on the morning of the 1st of February; making the passage from port to port in the unusually short space of fourteen and a half days. The average of her last three passages is less than eighteen days.

QUICK WORK.—Yesterday a party who had procured $100 *from a recruit*, was brought before Marshal MURRAY. "I want $100 from you," said the Marshal. "I will pay it," said the arrested. The amount was handed over, and that was the end of the interview.

BROOKLYN NEWS.

BOILER EXPLOSION AND DESTRUCTION OF A BUILDING.—An explosion occurred in the iron foundry of Messrs. CORSCON & REED, corner of Water and Jay streets, about 4¼ o'clock last evening, resulting in the partial destruction of the building and to the injury of several of the workmen. A fire had just been built in the boiler for the purpose of driving the fan of the furnace, preparatory to casting, when a loud explosion occurred, and the boiler was thrown some distance and turned upside down. The walls were shattered and the roof was lifted up several feet. A portion came down upon the ground floor with a crash, burying the men beneath. The walls were completely shattered, so as to render a thorough reconstruction necessary. An alarm of fire having been given, the firemen soon arrived, and, together with the police of the Forty-second Precinct, succeeded in exhausting the workmen. One man was impelled out of the front door and thrown across the street. The names of the injured parties are BARNEY MCGUINNESS, residing at No. 19 Bridge-street, leg broken; PATRICK MCCANNESS, residing at No. 161 Water-street, scalded; PETER MCPHILLIPS, residing in Wentworth-street, near Myrtle-avenue, cut on the face; JAMES BARNEY, No. 39 Main-street, bruised about the head. Drs. COGSWELL and YOUNG attended upon the parties and dressed their wounds. None of them appear to be dangerously injured.

The building was of brick, 50 by 60 feet in extent. It was damaged to the extent of almost $3,000. The probable cause of the explosion was the freezing of the water in the supply pipes.

NEW-JERSEY.

SENTENCE OF PRISONERS.—In the Hudson County Court, on Friday, Judge OGDEN pronounced the following sentences: ANN KIERNAN, larceny, County Jail 30 days; Hugh McCaffrey, assault and battery, fined $5; Christopher McGourne and Rodger Shields, assault and battery, fined $2 each; John Mitchell and Thomas Radcliffe, assault and battery on an officer, County Jail 30 days each; John Regan, stealing from the person, fined $50; John Doherty and Richard Welch, assault and battery, fined $5 each; John Madden and Hugh Thompson, boys, larceny, County Jail two months each; John Briggs, passing counterfeit money, State Prison one year; Ann Murphy, grand larceny, State prison one year; John Wier, robbery, three years, and Charles White, same offence, five years in State prison; Wm. Nolan, larceny, county jail five months; Albert Seibel, assault and battery, fined $15; John Williams, burglar [illegible] State prison one year; Owen McDonnell, malicious mischief, county jail three months; Chas. W. Schmidt, burglary, State prison four years; [illegible] assault and battery, fined 50 each, and John Purcell, same offence, fined $25.

The court adjourned for the term.

LAW REPORTS.

United States Circuit Court.

CASTING AWAY A VESSEL.

Before Judge Nelson.

George W. Cunningham, master of the ship *Senator*, was brought up this morning and arraigned on two indictments for casting away the ship at sea. One of the indictments charges the capital offence, and one a minor offence of conspiracy. Mr. Noyes appeared as counsel for the accused, who pleaded not guilty, and on his application the accused was ordered to give bail in the sum of $10,000 in the capital case and $2,500 in the other.

This case, it will be recollected, is the same in regards with a case recently tried in the civil courts by the owners of the ship against the underwriters, who defended on the ground that the ship was purposely cast away, but the jury found a verdict in favor of the owners.

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT.

The United States vs. *Charles Reed.*—The accused was put on trial under an indictment for cruel and unusual punishment inflicted by him while second mate of the ship *Golden Rule*, on a boy named Russell. He was defended by Mr. HOWES, but was convicted by the jury and sentenced by the court to be imprisoned for a year and ten months and to pay $500 fine.

Feb. 20.—The cases of five more of the liquor dealers were called up this morning. In cases of them a *nolle prosequi* was entered, they having made their peace with the authorities, and the other cases were laid over. Judge BETHUNE announced that as he was called back to Connecticut to attend to some business there, the court would be opened by Judge BARRE, on Monday morning, when the jury would be discharged till Tuesday next.

The Law of Bailments as Applied to Barber Shops—A Case of Great Public Interest—How to leave your Things when you go to get Shaved.

Before Hon. Moses D. Gale, Judge Fourth District Court.

Halstead vs. *Van Arsdale.*—It was evident that the amount involved in this case served as no criterion of the interest taken in it either by the parties or spectators. Counsel on either side must have absorbed several times the amount in dispute in their fees.

The action was for the loss of an umbrella given into the hands of a boy in attendance on customers in the defendant's well known barber shop, on Broadway, *where the plaintiff went to get shaved on New-Year's morning.* The testimony showed the delivery to the boy, and that when the plaintiff was ready to leave, the boy handed him another umbrella, which he refused to accept, his own having been given to some other person by mistake.

Counsel for defendant contended that he was not liable on the ground that he was not a bailee for hire, and had no lien on the property, and also that the principal was not bound by the negligent acts of the boy.

Counsel for plaintiff showed most clearly the reason of defendant's liability. He admitted that where a person went into a barber-shop, and threw down his clothing promiscuously, the proprietor was not liable, and that the proprietor was not bound as in the case of hotels and common carriers to receive the articles, but that, having voluntarily entered upon the trust of a bailee, in receiving the goods, he was bound to return them the same; as if he had been a bailee for hire, (2 Johns Cases, 23) and that the boy having done business of the same general character and effect, i. e., receiving hats, coats and other garments, had apparent authority, and which, according to the rule is the real authority for receiving the umbrella in question. (13 Court of Appeals, Rep. 599.)

Verdict for plaintiff for amount claimed and costs.

Horatio F. Averill for plaintiff. William G. Sterling for defendant.

Application for the Custody of an Illegitimate Child.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Justice Barnard.

In the Matter of the Application of Julia Bapnet for the Custody of her Child, William Free.—This was an application for the custody of an illegitimate infant child.

Judge BARNARD, after a private examination of the mother, said that it appeared that she had married since the indiscretion of which the child was the fruit, and if she would obtain the written consent of her husband to her keeping the child, he would award the custody of it to her.

Charles L. Spencer, for the relator; Horatio F. Averill for the respondent.

The Lawrence Will Case.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—GENERAL TERM.

Before Judge Cardozo.

Wm. R. Lawrence vs. *Wm. D. Parsons.*—The argument in this case was continued yesterday, and his Honor said that he would decide the matter on Monday.

Decisions.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM.

Before Judge Monell.

Louis Kunzze vs. *The American Exchange Fire Insurance Company.*—In this case the Jury rendered a verdict in favor of plaintiff for full amount claimed.

The subscribers will sell, at Brown, Morgan, Mygatt & Wilkens, at No. 722 Broadway, TUESDAY, Feb. 23, eighty choice building lots, located mostly between 6th-av., Broadway, 42d-st., and Central Park; a large number are located at 59th-st., 60th-st., and 6th-av., adjoining the Delmonico property; free from rock; enough below the grade for cellars; surrounded by genteel brown-stone dwellings; Seventy per cent. can remain on mortgage three or five years, at the option of the purchaser, at 6 per cent, per annum.

JONAS CONKLING, No. 20 Washington-square.

Hyatt's Patent Champion Fire-proof Safes, and Herring's new Patent Burglar-proof Safes, with Marvin & Fleury's Patent Crystallized Iron—the only material which cannot be drilled—at No. 251 Broadway, New-York.

Neck-tie manufacturers can save 40 per cent. by using the Wilcox & Gibbs sewing-machine. No. 505 Broadway.

Gen. Rosecrans on the Situation.

HIS SPEECH TO THE MISSOURI LEGISLATURE.

The following is the speech which Gen. ROSECRANS made before the Missouri Legislature a few days since:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly of Missouri, Ladies and Gentlemen: The cordial reception which I have received at your hands demand my warmest thanks. I cannot reward you by making a speech, for that is not the course